

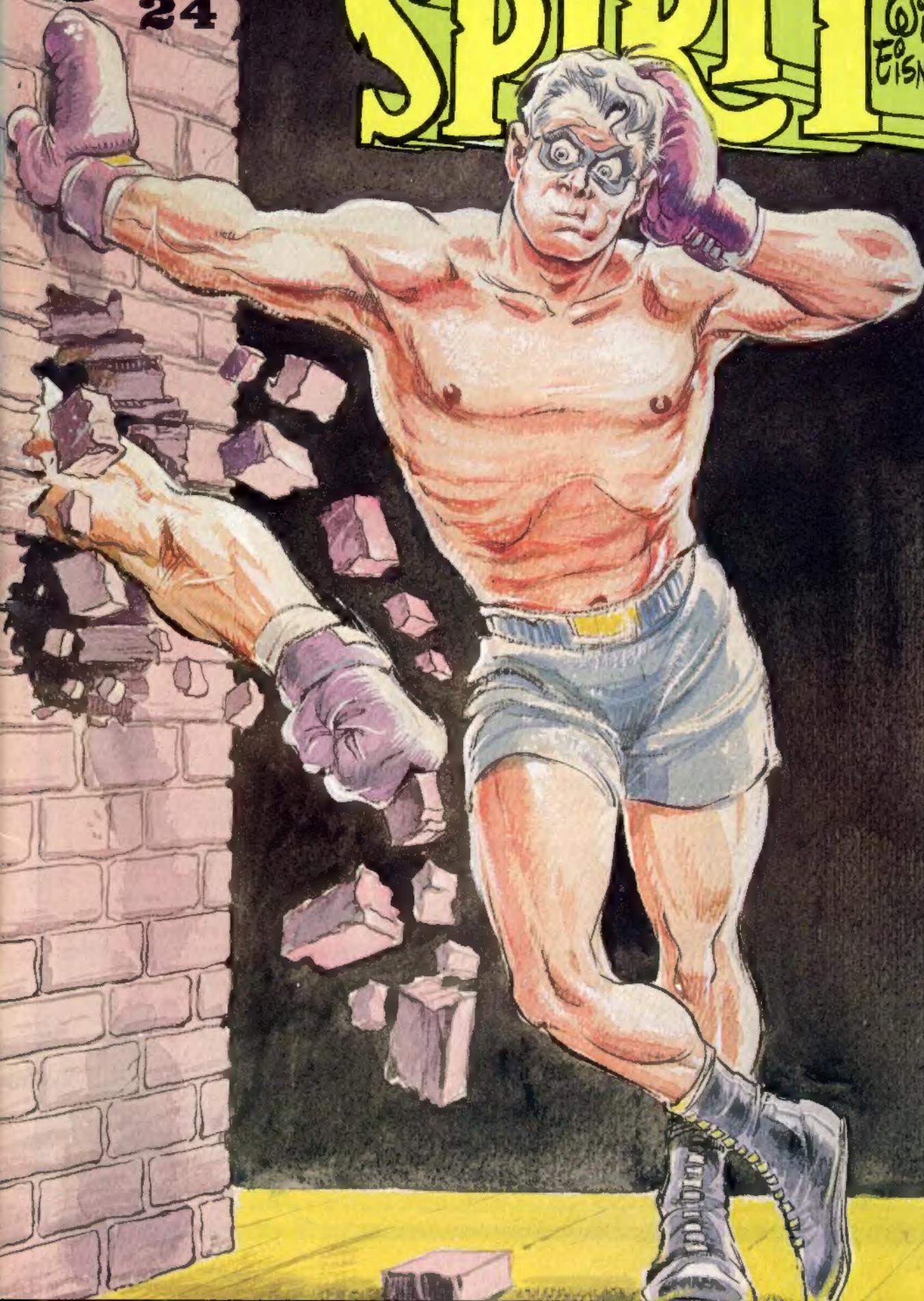
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24

THE SPIRIT

By

Will Eisner





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THE DEPT. of LOOSE ENDS

In addition to the general long-term evolution of characters which is a hallmark of any well-written series adventure, *The Spirit* featured three basic types of short-term continuity:

THE TWO-PART STORY. This was Will Eisner's favorite kind of "tight" continuity device. Unlike the usual comic book two-parter, in which the first half has a cliffhanger ending, Eisner always devised his plots in such a way that the two chapters could be read as separate stories, although, the whole being greater than the sum of its parts, there is more enjoyment to be had in reading both parts sequentially. Usually the first chapter was tragic and the second one comic, but occasional inversions of this formula (as for instance with the tales about *Autumn Mews*) kept the idea fresh. Good examples of this type of continuity occur in "Hoagy the Yogi, Parts 1 and 2" (March 16 and 23, 1947; reprinted together in *Warren Spirit* No.7) and "April Fool" and "Pinhead" (March 30 and April 6, 1947, reprinted in reverse order in *Kitchen* No.19 and *Warren* No.13, respectively).

THE MULTI-PART "EXOTIC ADVENTURE". These were six to eight chapter stories which usually featured travel to foreign lands. Typically, one or two chapters were set back home in Central City and revolved around such supporting characters as *Ellen*, *Sammy*, *Dolan* and *Ebony*. (*The Spirit* himself made only cameo appearances in these, and sometimes didn't appear at all). As for the actual "Exotic Adventure" itself, it was generally pretty straightforward and frequently included an encounter with one or more dangerous criminal women. Cliffhanger endings were not extreme-- no chapter concluded with *The Spirit* about to be eaten by sharks while bound hand and foot to a sinking ship as a villain stood over him at gunpoint, gloating insanely about his plans to conquer the known universe-- but many of the multi-parters contained a higher than average degree of suspense-- *The Spirit* blinded or on crutches for weeks, marooned on the Red Sea, hitch-hiking his way across China, and so forth. One good example of this type of plot is the "South Seas Adventure" which ran from July 10 through August 14, 1949. (The first episode has never been reprinted [look for it here soon!] but chapters 2 through 5 were run consecutively in *Warren* No.15 and, for some reason, the last episode was run out of sequence as early as *Warren* No.5).

THE DISCONTINUOUS "CHARACTER" STORY. These tales center around one character, either a villain or a member of the supporting cast. Although they display very tight continuity, they did not run on consecutive weeks, or, at most, ran in several two-part chunks. The best example is the P'Gell "School For Girls" series which totalled seven episodes and appeared at intervals throughout 1947. In this issue we are reprinting the first and last chapters of another "discontinuous" plot, one revolving around *Skinny Bones* and her rival, *Dulcet Tone*. Because the second part of the story has already been reprinted elsewhere, a little background may help put the whole thing into perspective:

"Beauty" (June 9, 1946) introduces *Skinny Bones* and a piano player named *Gam*. (*Gam*, by the way, sings the first crude prototype of "Ev'ry Little Bug," a song which became quite popular in Central City and was eventually published by Robbins Music Co., with melody by Will Eisner's friend, *Bill Harr*). *Skinny* and *Gam* bear more than a little resemblance to *Lauren Bacall* and *Hoagy Carmichael* in the movie *To Have and Have Not*, a picture which also starred *Humphrey Bogart*. Also appearing in this *Spirit* story is *Ellen's* Aunt *Mathilda*, a character introduced on March 1, 1942, where she married a gangster named *Hinkey Clutch*. On April 19, 1942, *Hinkey* was killed and *Mathilda* married Central City's mayor, *Nero Blast*. She subsequently sought to divorce him on November 1, 1942, but changed her mind. Between that appearance and this one she seems to have somehow lost track of *Mayor Blast* (who continued in office with no mention of a wife until November 9, 1947, when he was replaced by *Mr. Bowser*, the dog-catcher who co-starred in the three-part "Blind" series reprinted in *Kitchen Spirit* No.22).

But back to *Skinny Bones*! She and *Gam* next appeared in "Dulcet Tone," published July 7, 1946 (and reprinted in *Warren* No.16). At the end of that story, bloody knife in hand, *Skinny* is in custody for the murder of *Dulcet*, her partner in crime and rival in love. This issue's story, "Cargo Octopus," takes up mere minutes after that one leaves off. It also serves to introduce *The Octopus* (More about him in a moment!). *Skinny Bones* was never seen in *The* ...continued on page 6



SKINNY BONES

THE SPIRIT

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MICHAEL JACOBI

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SUE SCHMIDT

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- 2.....Spirit Checklist, part 3.
- 4.....Letters. Now two pages!
- 6.....Classified Ads. Send yours!
- 7.....Boomerslag. *The Spirit* steps into the ring. A never-before-reprinted story from 1941.
- 15.....Beauty. *The Spirit* almost proposes marriage to *Ellen*.
- 22.....Cargo Octopus. The very first appearance of *The Octopus* (see the column at left).
- 29.....Life on Another Planet, chapter 6. *Bludd*, *Nadia*, *Rocco* and a new ally rush to *Abort* the Multi-national *Sidiami* launch. An all-new adventure serial!
- 45.....A River of Crime. *Slippery Eall* leads a prison break.
- 53.....Rescue. Chapter 5 of the Eisner-Wood outer space serial.

COMING UP

Next Issue: *Coot Gallus* (It's election time and may the best bum... er... man win!) *The Doppelgänger* (Two strangers, both named *Joe Jones*, identical in every way: what strange fate links them in a web of...death?) *Sand Saref* in *Oil and Sand*, an Arabian adventure (1950). *Outer Space: The Last Man* (1952). *The Spirit* caged-- Don't miss *Captured by the Underworld!* Plus: 16 more brand new pages of *Life on Another Planet*.

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THE
PART
3
SPIRIT CHECKLIST
BY CATHERINE RONWODE

ABBREVIATIONS OF COMICS AND MAGAZINES							
CM	Comic Media	IW/P	IW Plastic Man	SB	Spirit Bag		
E	Eerie	K	Kitchen Sink Spirit	SCB	Spirit Coloring Book		
FH	Fiction House Spirit	M	Modern Comics	SM	Spiritman		
H	Harvey Spirit	P	Police Comics	TCM	3 Comics Magazine		
IW/S	IW/Super Spirit	Q	Quality/Vital Spirit	W	Warren Spirit		

386. 10/19/47. ("The Doppleganger") [reprinted with new framing sequence in 563]

387. 10/26/47. ("The Hallowe'en Spirit of 1947 — The Burning of P.S. 43")

388. 11/2/47. ("Sawbuck Brown") W 1-27 "The Criminal" (B&W Tones)

389. 11/9/47. ("The Election of Mr. Bowser")

390. 11/16/47. (The Fighting Machine) W 11-19 "The Fighting Machine" (B&W Tones, retouched)

391. 11/23/47. ("Money") K 19-5 "Money, Money" (B&W Wash, retouched)

392. 11/30/47. ("Slippery Eall") SCB "The Spirit vs. Sam 'Slippery' Eall" (B&W Proof, splash only)

393. 12/7/47. ("The Death of Hugo")

394. 12/14/47. ("Snow and Ice") W 12-41 "Snow" (B&W Tones, retouched)

395. 12/21/47. "The Christmas Spirit [of 1947 — Joy]" E 54-39 "The Christmas Spirit" (recoloured, "editor's note" added on splash, added [incorrect] text "It's 1946!" on page six)

396. 12/28/47. ("Umbrella Handles")

397. 1/4/48. ("Powder Pout") W 2-14 "The Name is Powder" (B&W Tones) Steranko History of Comics (B&W HT, splash only)

398. 1/11/48. ("The Fallen Sparrow") W 2-21 "The Fallen Sparrow" (B&W Tones)

399. 1/18/48. "Just One Word Made Me A Man"

400. 1/25/48. ("Montabaldo")

401. 2/1/48. "El Espirito" W 1-35 El Espirito" (recoloured, splash redrawn, footnote referring to 95 deleted) ("The Death of Mr. Bubble") W 11-54 "Blackmail" (B&W Tones, retouched)

403. 2/15/48. ("The Tragedy of Merry Andrew") W 2-28 (B&W Tones, splash redrawn)

404. 2/22/48. ("Life Below") SCB "The Spirit vs. The City Below" (B&W Proof, splash only) W 4-7 "Life Below" (B&W Tones, splash and page 4 retouched) Steranko History of Comics (B&W HT, splash only)

405. 2/29/48. ("The Return of Roger")

406. 3/7/48. "The Strange Case of Mrs. Paraffin" Steranko History of Comics (B&W Proof) W 3-35 (Recoloured, retouched) Richardson's Art of Cartooning (B&W Proof, page 6 only)

407. 3/14/48. "War Brides" K 20-18 (B&W Tones, wrongly dated as 3/7/48.)

408. 3/21/48. ("The Invention of Dr. Medulla) W 13-47 "Tunnel" (B&W Tones, wrongly dated 9/5/48)

409. 3/28/48. ("The Tunnel Contract")

410. 4/4/48. "Wild Rice" W 6-51 (B&W Tones, splash rearranged)

411. 4/11/48. ("Ellen Dolan's Inheritance") W 16-5 "The Inheritance" (B&W Tones, splash redrawn) SCB "The Spirit & Marriage" (B&W Proof, splash only) ("The O'Dolan") W 2-43 "The O'Dolan" (B&W Tones)

412. 4/18/48. ("Goople's Cream Presents 'The Spirit'") W 11-12 "The Torch" (B&W Tones, retouched)

414. 5/2/48. ("Bleak's Other Wife") W 6-14 "The Wedding" (B&W Tones, retouched)

415. 5/9/48. ("The Job") W 6-21 "The Job" (B&W Tones)

416. 5/16/48. ("The Last Hand") W 3-51 "The Last Hand" (B&W Tones)

417. 5/23/48. (The Spanish Jewels) W 8-35 "Assignment: Paris" (recoloured) W Special/7 (same as W 8-35)

418. 5/30/48. (The Emerald of Rajapur) W 4-21 "Silk Satin and The Spirit" (B&W Tones)

419. 6/6/48. ("The Guilty Gun") W 4-51 "The Guilty Gun" (B&W Tones)

420. 6/13/48. ("Pre-War Experimental Model") W 7-28 "Cheap is Cheap" (B&W Tones)

421. 6/20/48. (The Bloodless Murder) W 15-65 "Murder, Bloodless Type/A Bloodless Murder" (B&W Wash, retouched)

422. 6/27/48. ("The Spirit Takes a Vacation") [this is a refried version of 37] SCB "The Spirit Takes a Vacation" (B&W Proof, splash only)

423. 7/4/48. "Cromlech Was a Nature Boy" K 20-11 (B&W Tones)

424. 7/11/48. ("The Springtime of Dolan") W 16-49 "The Springtime of Dolan" (B&W Tones, retouched)

425. 7/18/48. "Barkerolle" K 18-31 (B&W Wash, retouched)

426. 7/25/48. "The Thing" By Ambrose Bierce

427. 8/1/48. "The Eisner Travel Agency"

428. 8/8/48. ("A Day at the Beach")

429. 8/15/48. ("The Jr. President Election")

430. 8/22/48. "The Fall of the House of Usher" By Edgar Allan Poe

431. 8/29/48. ("The Prisoner of Donjon") W 15-57 "The Prisoner of Donjon" (B&W Wash retouched)

432. 9/5/48. ("Gerhard Shnobble") H 1/8 (C, new photos & much revision in art) W 13-61 "Gerhard Shnobble" (B&W Tones, same photos as in H 1/8 but art again redrawn in part, last page rewritten, wrongly dated 10/16/49)

433. 9/12/48. ("Cache McStash")

434. 9/19/48. ("Lorelei Rox") H 1/2 (C)

435. 9/26/48. ("Lizzie Pinch & Ace McCase") W 15-41 "Ace McCase" (B&W Tones, retouched)

436. 10/3/48. ("Drop Dead") W 12-49 "Tooty Compote" (B&W Tones, retouched)

437. 10/10/48. ("Sam Chapparell") H 2/6 (C, date on splash is altered from 1948 to 1966, splash redrawn) K 19-33 "Gold" (B&W Wash, retouched)

438. 10/17/48. ("Nazel B. Twitch") W 11-26 "Nazel B. Twitch" (B&W Tones, retouched)

439. 10/24/48. ("Pancho de Bool Take Two") [not to be confused with the similarly titled but unrelated 34] W 12-26 "Pancho de Bool" (B&W Tones, retouched)

440. 10/31/48. ("The Hallowe'en Spirit of 1948 — Ellen Meets Hazel") H 2/8 (C, Ellen's hairdo redrawn) K 19-47 "Hallowe'en" (B&W Wash, retouched)

441. 11/7/48. ("Plaster of Paris") H 2/2 (C, W 11-47 "Plaster of Paris" (B&W Tones, many panels redrawn and rewritten)

442. 11/14/48. ("Return to Boot Camp") K 19-40 "The Chapparell Lode" (B&W Wash, retouched)

443. 11/21/48. ("The Thanksgiving Spirit of 1948 — Quirte") K 20-4 "Quirte" (B&W Tones, retouched)

444. 11/28/48. ("The Amulet of Osiris") [referred in 642]

445. 12/5/48. ("Stop the Plot") W 9-21 "The Coin" (B&W Tones)

446. 12/12/48. ("Two Lives") H 1/3 (C, splash lengthened), W 8-59 (B&W Tones, retouched)

447. 12/19/48. "The Christmas Spirit [of 1948: Basher Bains]" W 12-33 "The Christmas Spirit" (B&W Tones, retouched)

Sections 448 through 567: Scripts by Will Eisner or Jules Feiffer or Eisner and Feiffer, with occasional ones by Klaus Nordling. Art by Will Eisner (with backgrounds by Eisner and/or Jerry Grandenetti, Andre Le Blanc, Manny Stallmen, Klaus Nordling, Jim Dixon and/or others) — except Section 519: Script and Art by Andre Le Blanc with framing sequence by Eisner and Section 522: Script by Feiffer and Eisner, Art by Phillip (Tex) Blaisdell with framing sequence by Eisner. Lettering, Sections 448 through 520 and 524 through 530 (plus a few later ones too) by Abe Kanegson; Sections 521 through 523 and 531 through 567 by several letterers, including Ben Oda and Chris Christiansen. Colouring, sections 448 through 567 by Jules Feiffer, Will Eisner and others.

448. 12/26/48. "Will Eisner's Almanack of the Year — 1948"

449. 1/2/49. ("The Spirit Proposes") W 5-53 "Ice" (B&W Tones)

450. 1/9/49. ("Fracture Bones") W 7-59 "A Prisoner of Love" (B&W Tones, splash rearranged, retouched)

451. 1/16/49. ("Lolo the Eskimo") W 7-51 "The Explorer" (B&W Tones)

452. 1/23/49. ("Thorne Strand") H 1/6 (C, Splash lengthened, Ellen's hairdo redrawn), W 8-21 "Thorne Strand and . . . The Spirit" (B&W Tones, splash and Ellen's hairdo as in Harvey version)

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS CHECKLIST

(“Title”)	My title for an untitled Section.	(B&W HT)	Black & white halftones of original Section.	(C)	4-Colour process, similar to orig.
“Title”	Title or headline on original splash; title given to reprint.	(B&W LS)	Black & white line shot of original Section.	(Recoloured)	Full-process colour, unlike orig.
(Title)	Title given in the post-war “Next Week” box.	(B&W Proof)	Black & white from original or retouched art or photostat.	(Retouched)	Minor changes in artwork.
0/0	Issue no./Story no. [Spirit stories only; others ignored].	(B&W Tones)	Black & white with flat tones.	(Redrawn)	Major changes in artwork.
0 - 0	Issue no. - page no. [only used on titles with page numbers given].	(B&W Wash)	Black & white with wash tones.	(Refried)	Same story, much dialogue same, names may be changed, new art.
		(B&W Zip)	Black & white with zipetones.	(Reprinted)	Same art & story. A Framed reprint has a new framing sequence & some original panels deleted.

453. 1/30/49. (“A Slow Ship To Shanghai”) W 8-28 “A Slow Ship To Shanghai” (B&W Tones)

454. 2/6/49. “The Big Sneeze Caper” W 7-7 “The Big Sneeze Caper” (B&W Tones)

455. 2/13/49. (“Agent Cosmek”) H 1/4 (C, splash, redrawn) W 8-59 “Visitor” (B&W Tones, retouched)

456. 2/20/49. (“The Valentine”) W 13-5 “The Valentine” (B&W Tones, retouched)

457. 2/27/49. (“The Comic Book”) H 2/3 (C), W 5-35 “The Deadly Comic Book” (Recoloured, retouched, rewritten in parts, W Special/4 (Same as Warren 5-35)

458. 3/6/49. (“Glob”) W 6-35 “Glob” (Recoloured), W Special/5 (Same as Warren 6-35)

459. 3/13/49. (“Death and Taxes”) W 5-43 “Death, Taxes . . . and The Spirit” (B&W Tones), Spoken English Workbook “Enrichment Material for First and Second Year Language Laboratory Program for a Course in Spoken English for Navajos” (B&W photocopy from proof, rewritten in parts (simplified) and each page faced with a page of questions on language usage and comprehension for students to answer, Black, white and blue cover added, not by Eisner [probably by Glen D. Johnson, teacher of the course])

460. 3/20/49. (“Bully Dozer’s Dem”) W 9-43 “The Vernal Equinox” (B&W Tones, wrongly dated as 3/10/49)

461. 3/27/49. (“The Dummy”) W 3-28 “Foul Play” (B&W Tones, splash rearranged)

462. 4/3/49. (“Kerrigan’s Gold”) CM 11 “The Leprechaun” (B&W Zip), SCB “The Spirit Vs. Wisp O’Smoke” (B&W Proof, splash only), W 8-43 “A Pot of Gold” (B&W Tones, retouched)

463. 4/10/49. “Introducing Lovely Looie” W 9-28 “Introducing Lovely Looie” (B&W Tones)

464. 4/17/49. (“Dolan Walks a Bear”) [refried in 616]

465. 4/24/49. “The Spirit Now Deputy” W 5-14 “The Spirit Now Deputy” (B&W Tones)

466. 5/1/49. (“Blind Lamb”) SCB “The Spirit Vs. Blind Lamb” (B&W Proof, splash only), W 5-21 “The Hunted” (B&W Tones, retouched)

467. 5/8/49. (“Hemid Jebru”) W 5-51 “Hemid Jebru” (B&W Tones)

468. 5/15/49. (“Asterisk”) W 11-40 “The Crime of Passion” (B&W Tones, retouched)

469. 5/22/49. (“The Space Sniper”) W 9-35 “The Space Sniper” (Recoloured) W Special/8 (Same as Warren 9-35)

470. 5/29/49. “Young Dr. Ebony” W 7-35 “Young Dr. Ebony” (Recoloured), W Special/6 (Same as Warren 7-35)

471. 6/5/49. (“Black Alley”) [partially refried in 616] W 3-7 “Black Alley” (B&W Tones, retouched)

472. 6/12/49. (“Hurricane”) W 8-51 “Satin” (B&W Tones), Masters of Comic Book Art (B&W Tones, bottom two tiers of page 6 only)

473. 6/19/49. (“The Prediction is Snow”) W 5-28 “The Prediction” (B&W Tones, retouched)

474. 6/26/49. (“The Elevator”) W 4-35 (Recoloured), W Special/3 (Same as Warren 4-35)

475. 7/3/49. “Ye Olde Spirit of ’76” W 4-28 (B&W Tones)

476. 7/10/49. “The Spirit Vanishes” [“Lilly Lotus”]

477. 7/17/49. (“Sally of the Islands”) W 15-5 “Sally of the Islands” (B&W Tones, retouched)

478. 7/24/49. (“Willie Ankle”) W 15-12 “The Masked Man” (B&W Tones, faded craftint on splash re-inked, retouched)

479. 7/31/49. (“The Baseball Election”) W 15-19 “The Ball Game” (B&W Tones, retouched)

480. 8/7/49. (“Matus”) W 15-26 “Matus” (B&W Tones, retouched)

481. 8/14/49. (“The Return”) W 5-7 “The Return” (B&W Tones), SCB “The Spirit Comes Home” (B&W Proof, splash only)

482. 8/21/49. (“Monica Veto”) W 9-7 “The Candidate” (B&W Tones, splash redrawn, rest retouched)

483. 8/28/49. (“White Cloud”) W 8-14 “White Cloud” (B&W Tones, retouched)

484. 9/4/49. “The Story of Rat-Tat The Toy Machine Gun” H 1/5 “The Story of Rat-Tat The Toy Machine

Gun” (C, splash lengthened), K 17-4 “The Story of Rat-Tat The Toy Machine Gun” (B&W Zip, retouched)

485. 9/11/49. (“Ten Minutes”) H 1/6 (C), W 13-54 (B&W Very Dark Wash-type Tones caused by preparing the story for full process colour (i.e. recoloured) and then half-toning the coloured version for B&W)

486. 9/18/49. “Lurid Love” W 15-33 “Lurid Love” (B&W Tones)

487. 9/25/49. (The Hundred Days of Vino Red) W 4-43 “The Return of Vino Red” (B&W Tones, retouched, wrongly dated 9/25/47)

488. 10/2/49. (“Autumn Mews”) W 11-5 “Crime” (B&W Tones, retouched)

489. 10/9/49. (“The Death of Autumn Mews”)

490. 10/16/49. (“The Curse”) W 13-19 “The Curse” (B&W Tones, wrongly dated 4/2/50)

491. 10/23/49. (“Fox At Bay”) W 3-14 “Fox At Bay” (B&W Tones)

492. 10/30/49. “Elect Miss Rhinemaiden of 1950 [The Hallowe’en Spirit of 1949]”

493. 11/6/49. (“Reprinted Case of the Inner Voice”) [This is a framed reprint of 324 with 2 new pages of art (and equivalent number of original panels deleted). The “Next Week” box of 10/30/49 advertised this story as “The Man Whom Nobody Heard Of,” but that title belongs to the following story (“Surgery”). Deadline pressure caused this reprint to be substituted at the last minute.]

494. 11/13/49. (“Surgery”) [“The Man Whom Nobody Heard Of”—see above for explanation] W 3-21 “Surgery” (B&W Tones)

495. 11/20/49. (“The Thanksgiving Spirit of 1949 – Carrion”) K 18-13 “The Thanksgiving Spirit” (B&W Wash, retouched)

496. 11/27/49. (“Quadrant J. Stet”) W 3-43 “The Embezzler” (B&W Tones)

497. 12/4/49. (“The Fence Convention”) W 15-49 “Winter Heaven” (B&W Tones, retouched)

498. 12/11/49. (“Flaxen Weaver”) [This is a refried version of 42] W 4-59 “Flaxen Weaver” (B&W Tones)

499. 12/18/49. (“Lonesome Cool”) [This is a refried version of 68] W 3-59 “Lonesome Cool” (B&W Tones, retouched)

500. 12/25/49. “The Christmas Spirit [of 1949 – S. Kringle Claus]”

501. 1/1/50. (“Fan Mail”) K 18-47 “Fan Mail” (B&W Wash)

502. 1/8/50. (Sand Saref) [This Section and the following one “reprint” the lead story from the unpublished 1948 John Law comic book. The original version was 11 pages long. The splash page became the splash of section 503, while the splash and next two pages of this section are new (1950) art. Other than that, the pages are run in their original order. Commissioner Bunyan and Nubbin have been reworked with pastes-over (into Commissioner Dolan and Sammy respectively) but John Law was transformed into The Spirit by inking his eyepatch into a mask and then whitening out his pipe. Some very minor rewriting was necessary, chiefly in the area of names. However, statements like Sand’s, “You’re a cop” were allowed to stand, even though they do not apply to The Spirit. (John Law was, as his name implies, a police detective.) The cover and two other stories from John Law were also reworked into Spirit Sections in 1950 and will be noted as such in this checklist. The only copy of the original John Law exists in the form of stats in Will Eisner’s possession.]

503. 1/15/50. W 8-7 “Sand Saref” (B&W Tones, retouched)

“The Second and Final Installment of ‘Sand Saref’” [See notes on 502 for relation between this story and John Law] [This section, incidentally, has the distinction of being the most-often-reprinted Spirit story] SCB “The Spirit and Sand Saref” (B&W Proof, splash only), Help! Vol. 2 No. 4 “The Second and Final Installment of ‘Sand Saref’” (B&W Proof, plus one page text intro by Harvey Kurtzman with photo of Eisner, etc.) Captain George’s Comic World 27 (B&W Proof plus intro bootlegged from Help!), Witzend 4



LETTERS

EISNER NEVER OVERWRITES

I am 17 years old, and an Italian. Up till one year ago, comics meant to me just Jack Kirby, Carl Barks, Charles Schulz and Guido Crepax. However, I have since then begun to explore in earnest the world of comics, and certainly the most pleasant find has been *The Spirit*.

This is the only comic I know of that ever put stories with drama, intelligence and good pacing into an 8-pg format. Barks did that, but his best stories are 28 or 30 pages long. And Will Eisner's drawing is amazing! The simplest of backgrounds, the most natural light is turned by Eisner into a dramatic and effective scene. *The Spirit* No.19, page 19, panel 3 is a spectacularly good example, but there are so many others.

As for the writing, some recent comic writers such as Steve Gerber and Don McGregor could learn a lot from *The Spirit*. Eisner's points arise smoothly out of the story and merge with it. This is no where more in evidence than in his new graphic serial, "Life on Another Planet." One of the reasons it works so well is that Eisner *never* NEVER overwrites.

Today too few people are producing high quality comics. We need Will Eisner more than ever. And congratulations on getting that fine comics connoisseur, Cat Yronwode. Though I do not see eye to eye with her on many matters (e.g. the importance of Steve Ditko, *Master of Kung Fu*, Mike Kaluta and Jack Kirby) she is still one of the most intelligent fans (and, as of now, professionals) around.

F. Paul Barbieri

50 Thames View, Rose Hill, Oxford, England

PUTS OTHER COMICS TO SHAME

I just got thru reading (and looking at!) *Spirit* No.23, and I think it's the best issue yet! The cover is beau-ti-ful. Nice use of watercolor paper. And an emotional theme instead of the many symbolic covers Eisner has done since returning to *The Spirit* in the 80's.

The Dept. of Loose Ends was very

informative--getting to see how many appearances Silk Satin (also called Black Satin in one pre-war story) made and where to find reprints. She is the most recurrent female character ('cept for Ellen, of course) in *The Spirit's* run. And finally a good reproduction of a vintage pre-war Eisner story. It's fantastic! Keep 'em coming! Also, the manner in which the tones were applied in this issue is very effective.

A good balance of stories too: serious, funny, thought-provoking, & badly beaten cartoonists--great.

"Life on Another Planet" is shaping up nicely. Eisner's constant playing with story-telling, his use of smoke to create panel borders, overlapping panels, reversing silhouettes, and the crazy but effective breakdowns on page 13 are very refreshing to see.

A good package. One worth waiting for. It puts all the currently produced comic magazines to shame.

Well, in closing, here's a cartoon of mine you might be able to use. Don't get mad, Will, it's just a joke. Thanks.

Denis McFarling

Rt.1 Box 287, Willow Springs MO 65793



FINNISH FANS LOVE THE SPIRIT

We were very pleased when we noticed that you had begun to publish *The Spirit* after Warren and that you have used better quality paper. *The Spirit* is one of the greatest heroes of comic art. We hope that you use color only on the covers of the magazine.

The Spirit is quite famous in Finland and has a lot of admirers, even though it is not published here.

In Finland most of the best comics are published in color and in album form and mostly European in origin. We have about 40 comic magazines, but none can match the high quality



of your *Spirit*. Finnish comic fans are very conscious of the world's comic situation and subscribe to the best bits from countries around the world.

Could you say how many *Spirit* stories there were in all?

Pentti Nuortimo, Pekka Suosa, Kari Viirret and Arto Hukkanen
Sarkkatie 15, 90250 Oulu, Finland

There were 645 original *Spirit* sections (not all drawn by Will Eisner) ending in 1952. Since then, Eisner has created complete new *Spirit* stories for the two *Harvey Spirits*, the N.Y. Herald-Tribune magazine, *Kitchen Spirit* No.2, and the *Tabloid Press*.

NEW WORK IS EISNER'S GREATEST

Although it is great getting all of *The Spirit* stories in reprint form, for me, the most exciting part of your magazine is Eisner's current work. It is fascinating to see how he tells a story now, as compared to "then"-- to view his refinements of stylistic features and story-telling devices side-by-side with the older work.

In a word, I find the current work is best described as *direct*. *Powerful*. It has immediate *impact*. The covers, for instance--so many dramatic close-ups. No.20: *The Spirit's* head in the water. No.23: *Satin clutching the Spirit*. *A Contract With God* demonstrates best his incredible detail work. In *Contract* and the new "Life on Another Planet" stories we get panels that virtually *plunge* directly into our eyes. They *command* visual attention.

It's like there's no messing around anymore; Eisner's just *doing it*. I detect a quintessential point in the evolution of his style. One *feels* raindrops; figures step out of the page. The overall effect is one of incredible drama.

The innovations in these latest stories are unparalleled elsewhere--they reveal the study and knowledge of a lifetime behind them. The precision of graphic effect, and the craftsmanship, are hardly found in the work of a handful of other graphic artists. *And it is in Eisner's current work alone that I see the quantum jump to a new level of the art form.* What he's doing now, other artists will study for years. *He's evolving the graphic art form itself.*

Not that Eisner hasn't always made us feel raindrops and emotions. But despite the greatness of all his work, I feel the new stories are his greatest.

Thanks again for bringing us the privilege of witnessing Eisner's genius fully matured.

Louis A. Morra

112 West 72nd St., New York, N.Y. 10023

WANTS AN EISNER ANTHOLOGY

Eisner does great justice to the saying "you don't get older, you get better". It would be easy for him to just kick back and live off the reprint royalties from his timeless hero, *The Spirit*, but like a true artist, he keeps plodding ahead.

Over the years he has continued to experiment, develop and expand. His innovations have resulted in new and exciting graphic art forms such as *A Contract With God* and "Life on Another Planet".

Nor has he abandoned his original creation. He continues to contribute to the legend of *The Spirit* by rendering classic, breath-taking paintings such as the one which appeared on the cover of issue No.23.

Eisner is without a doubt one of the most important creative forces in the history of comics. I would like to see his greatest stories, covers, and so on, collected in a high quality, limited edition hardback format such as Nino's *Satan's Tears* or Wrightson's *A Look Back*. It would be an expensive proposition, but I think fan response would be phenomenal, and it would collect and preserve this outstanding talent. Do you think such a book is feasible?

Kevin C. McConnell

118 Main Avenue, Warren, PA 16365

Kevin--At least two such projects are in the works, but it would be premature to announce them yet. Watch this magazine for further information. And don't forget the high quality, limited edition Eisner portfolios (see page 6 and page 52).

WANTS TO SEE MR. MYSTIC ART

You're doing a real good job on *The Spirit* magazine. I hope you have a long run! I especially like those wraparound covers. It's really refreshing to look at the back cover and *not* see advertising.

And there's virtually no advertising on the inside either.

Sorry, but I just can't get interested in your other "underground" comics... they just turn me off. However, after reading your letters page in No.23, I'd like to second Jay Kinney's notion for you to do an all-reprint *Lady Luck* magazine. I also enjoy Nordling's art.

Wasn't there another feature, also from the old *Spirit* Sunday sections? *Mr. Mystic* or some such? I'd like to see some of that art collected too.

Your checklist is also a really nice feature.

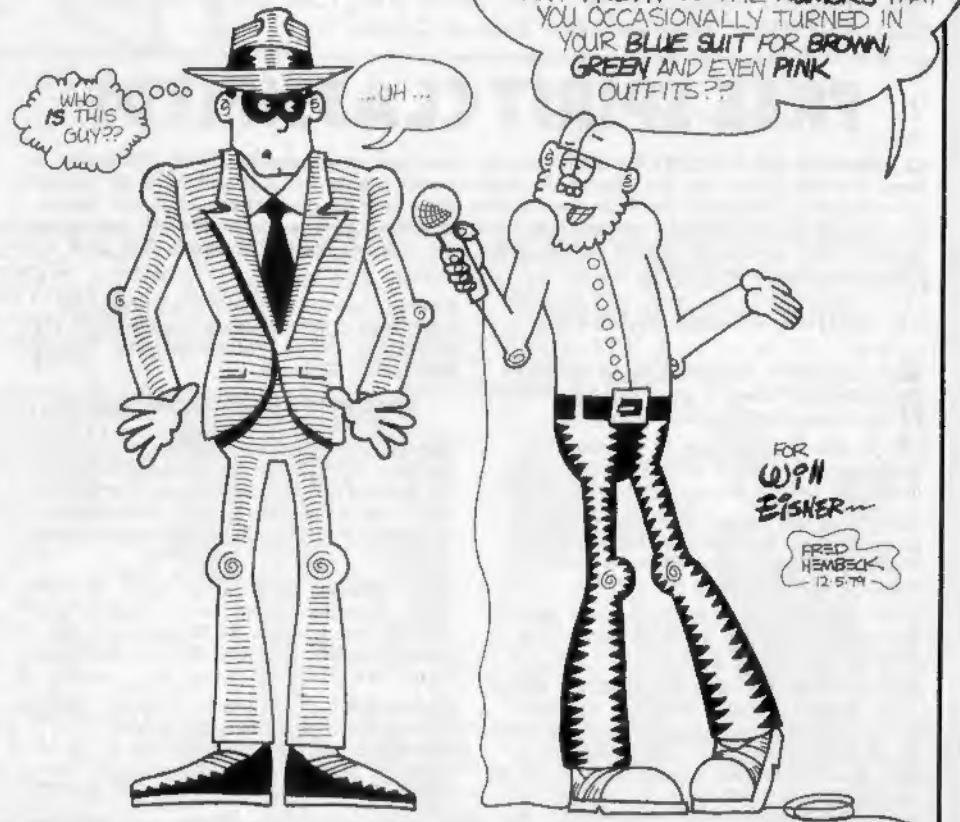
Ray Reistoffer

P.O. Box 34, Marcus, Iowa 51035

Ray: A Lady Luck collection will soon be published (not by us) and will be offered here when available. As for Bob Powell's beautiful Mr. Mystic—only scattered pages of original art or printers' proofs exist, the bulk having been destroyed by the Quality Comics Group as part of their periodic "house cleanings" during World War II. However, Cat Yronwode is actively seeking to contact people with Mr. Mystic artwork for the purpose of publishing a small collection of Powell's art and she would appreciate it if readers who own originals or proofs would write her c/o this magazine.

HEMBECK "MOST SATISFIED"

In the published fan writing I've done concerning comics, it would seem to some that I've given Will Eisner and *The Spirit* the short shrift. Perhaps that



is true, though hardly toward malicious ends. For such a body of eloquent criticism--no, make that eloquent praise--for Eisner's work already exists that I'd be hard put to add anything new to what's already been said. Still, for the record: Will Eisner's work, particularly on *The Spirit*, is the most thoroughly satisfying blend of words and pictures that I've ever seen. The man's a genius. I'm not the first person to say that and I guarantee I won't be the last.

It's a true pleasure to see *The Spirit* in such an attractive package, something that can't be said often enough. Thanks, Denis. And please continue running any new material Mr. Eisner chooses to do--I, for one, am really enjoying "Life on Another Planet"! The new covers are always delightful, with No.21's Halloween cover the best of a great bunch. Sigh...for an Eisner Christmas painting. Fred Hembreck

967 Hoosick Avenue, Troy NY 12180

Please address your letters of comment to:

THE SPIRIT

P.O. Box 7

Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

...continued from page 1

Spirit again, but Dulcet Tone made one more appearance— in "Return to Caramba" (November 11, 1946, reprinted in Kitchen No.1) where she was again teamed up with The Octopus.

As for The Octopus, that man of mystery, that purple-gloved doppelgänger who haunts our hero, that arch-fiend and master criminal whose face is never seen (well, *almost* never)— he was born Zitzbath Zark, child prodigy and homicidal maniac, and eventually he went on to become the aesthetic and existential clone of an earlier Spirit foe known only as... The Squid. (The Squid began his crime career on January 18, 1942 and met his death on December 30, 1945). Like his forebear, The Octopus' first appearance featured Silk Satin and he had a large store of rubber masks with which to disguise his features. But The Octopus went far beyond the penny ante fifth column sabotage which was The Squid's main claim to fame. His goal was to single-handedly dominate the entire criminal underworld, both in the United States and abroad. Altogether, The Octopus appeared in a total of 22 stories during the original run of *The Spirit*, as well as starring in the all-new "Origin of the Octopus" which lead off the second Harvey *Spirit* reprint comic in 1967.

Spirit sections featuring The Octopus are:

- 320. 7/14/46 The Postage Stamp (K24, as Cargo Octopus)
- 338. 11/17/46 Return to Caramba (K1)
- 340. 12/1/46 The Portier Fortune
- 371. 7/6/47 Wanted—Mortimer J. Titmouse (W2)
- 376. 8/10/47 Klink Versus The Octopus
- 377. 8/17/47 The Picnic
- 378. 8/24/47 Showdown with The Octopus (W6, *Comics Journal* 47)
- 396. 12/28/47 Umbrella Handies
- 400. 1/25/48 Montabaldo
- 401. 2/1/48 El Espiritu (W1)
- 427. 8/1/48 The Eisner Travel Agency
- 440. 10/31/48 Hallowe'en Spirit/Ellen Meets Hazel (K19)
- 445. 12/5/48 Stop the Plot (W9)
- 448. 12/26/48 Will Eisner's Almanack/1948
- 558. 2/4/51 Reprinted Showdown with The Octopus
- 559. 2/11/51 Octopus Back in U.S.A. (W10)
- 560. 2/18/51 To the Spirit with Love (K17)
- 561. 2/25/51 Reprinted Portier Fortune
- 564. 3/18/51 Darling Unmasks The Octopus
- 581. 7/15/51 Heat (Name only, not seen) (W10)
- 582. 7/22/51 Hospital Zone— Quiet (FH5, W10) (Last Eisner Octopus)
- 600. 11/25/51 I Hate the Spirit Because Contest

FREE SPIRIT CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY: We will run your classified ad absolutely FREE. Please try to keep it under 25 words. We reserve the right to edit ads to fit. Ads will NOT be repeated automatically. Resubmit for each issue if you want your ad or portions of it run again. No ads will be accepted by phone. Ads must be related to The Spirit. We will not accept ads for other comics or subject matter. Send your ads to: Spirit Classifieds, P.O. Box 7, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968.

SPIRIT ITEMS WANTED

Spirit bags No.1 and No.3. Send asking price to Peter Glass, Fortuna Ledge Post Office, Marshall, Akaska 99585.

Warren Spirits No.7 and 11 through 14. Please send condition and prices to Martin Strell, 70 Orange Drive, Jericho NY 11753.

Spirit bags (all issues) and original Spirit sections. Send list and conditions to Joey Niedbala, 3288 Skipper Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452.

Spirit bags No.1 and No.3. Contact Jerry Edwards, 424 Citrus, Imperial Beach, CA 92032.

Spirit sections for 6/15/41, 7/20/41, 8/10/41, 10/19/41, 5/3/42, 8/16/42, 11/30/47, 11/13/49 and other dates—in good or better condition (no tabs). Cat Yronwode, P.O. Box 86, Willow Springs, MO 65793 or call (417) 469-4309.

Kitchen Spirits No.1 and No.2. Also the Spirit wall poster. William Sheehan, 23 Halsdon Close, Darley Road, Battersea, London SW11 6RH, England.

SPIRIT ITEMS FOR SALE

Will Eisner self-portrait button. Full Color 2 1/4 inch pinback. \$1.50 postpaid. Inquire for full list of 100 cartoonist buttons (sent free with every order). Hollybrook Graphics, Rt.1 Box 329-S, Princeton, Wisc. 54968.

Spirit Coloring Book. Large book, on heavy stock. Fabulous splash panels begging to be colored and savored. \$3.50 postpaid. Sea Gate, Box 5-S, Parkville Station, Brooklyn, New York 11204.

Harvey Spirit No.1 and 2, Fine-NM, \$10 ea; Warren Spirit No.2 NM \$4; Warren 6-10 NM \$2.25 ea; Warren 11-16 NM \$1.75 ea. (Add \$1 postage on all orders). Cat Yronwode, Box 86, Willow Springs MO 65793.

WILL EISNER'S

SPIRIT PORTFOLIO

"The ten plates that constitute this portfolio represent the essence of The Spirit... This undertaking was an effort to condense the hundreds of story situations that made up The Spirit's adventures. In that respect, this portfolio is for the Spirit fan. For in preparing [these plates] I was creating a sort of elaborate gift of memory— a nostalgic thank you for old friends." —Will Eisner



- Ten full-color plates printed on highest quality paper. Each plate dramatically captures the Spirit in a classic confrontation or situation.
- A bonus 11th plate, in black & white, showing pencil roughs by Eisner.
- A 12th sheet featuring a personal introduction by Will Eisner, with color photos.
- Housed in a heavy-duty squareback binding, cloth-bound board 1/8 inch thick, with stamped cover and drawings on the inside covers.
- Each portfolio is numbered and autographed by Eisner.

Remaining Spirit Portfolios are \$35 plus \$2 shipping via insured U.P.S. (foreign orders include \$5 postage).

HOLLYBROOK GRAPHICS
Rt.1 Box 329-S
Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

BOOMBERSHLAG

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

THE Spirit

BY Will Eisner

NO RED TAPE . . . NO BLUNDERING, SELFISH POLITICIANS RULE THE SPIRIT AS HE SMASHES CRIME BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW . . .



SLOWLY HIS HAND CLOSES ABOUT THE HILT . . . DELIBERATELY HE BRINGS THE SHINING BLADE UP ABOVE HIS HEAD . . .



FOR A MOMENT IT HALTS . . . THEN SWOOPS . . . IMBEDDING ITSELF IN THE ROUND SMOOTH FLESH OF DIPSY'S ARM . . .



NOT A SOUND ESCAPES FROM THE SMILING GIANT . . . JAWS DROP . . . EYES POP . . . THE SMALL MAN WITH THE SLEEPY EYES TURNS TOWARD HIS AUDIENCE . . .



QUITE NATURAL, GENTLE-
MEN... QUITE... YOU SEE,
THROUGH AN INJECTION,
THIS FINE SPECIMEN OF
A MAN WILL BE WITHOUT
NERVES... HE WILL FEEL
NO PAIN... IMAGINE
SUCH A MAN IN A
PRIZE RING!!

BUT... HOW... HOW DOES
IT WORK?

SIMPLE... MY
FORMULA CREATES
A SORT OF RUBBER
EPIDERMIS OR
OUTER SKIN... NO
EXAMINING DOCTOR
WOULD EVER SUSPECT
FOR EVERYTHING
ELSE ABOUT HIM IS
NORMAL!

BUT ENOUGH OF
THIS... YOU GENTLE-
MEN ARE THIS CITY'S
GREATEST GAMBLERS
... I'LL GIVE YOU
EACH ONE-THIRD
INTEREST IN MY
FIGHTER...

WE'LL
BUY IT...
AND ON
TOP OF
THAT
WE'LL
ARRANGE
A MATCH
NEXT WEEK!

BUT WAIT A MINUTE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU
AND DIPSY... WHAT'LL
YOU GET OUT OF IT???

ME? HEH..HEH..HEH.. I DO THIS
FOR THE EXTREME PLEASURE
OF WATCHING DIPSY KILL...
HA..HA..HE'S BEAUTIFUL
TO WATCH.. FISTS LASHING OUT,
BATTERING HIS VICTIM TO
DEATH.. HA..HA..HA..HA..
MAN IN HIS ELEMENTARY
FORM!

HE'S A
WACK!

WHAT DO YOU CARE?
WE'LL BE RICH AFTER
THE NEXT FIGHT...
I THINK I'LL SIGN
UP THAT PUG,
WINTHROP
BOOMBERSHLAG!

AT COMMISSIONER
DOLAN'S HOME
THAT EVENING...

EVENING, YES...
DADDY... COME IN
HERE, ELLEN...
I WANT
TO TALK
TO YOU...

ELLEN..HRMPP.. ELLEN,
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE
UP A CAREER OR GET
MARRIED... IT GRIEVES
ME TO SEE YOU IDLE..
DOING NOTHING
BUT GOING TO
TEAS AND
DANCES...

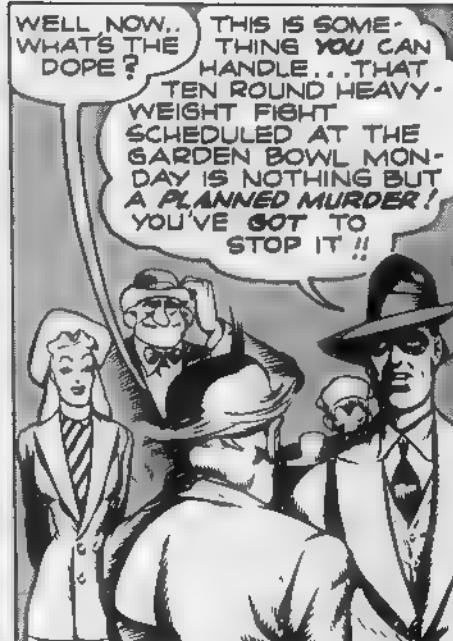
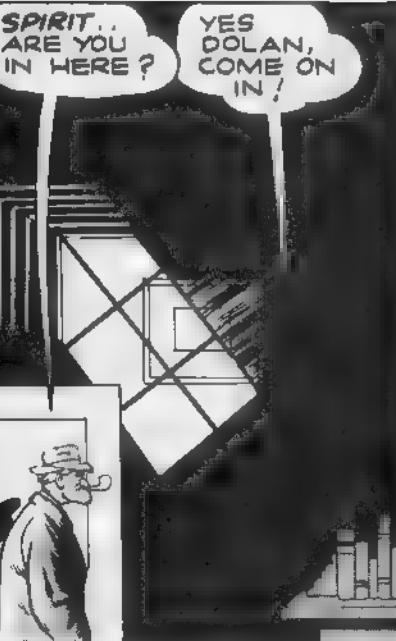
I'M GLAD YOU
FEEL THAT WAY,
DADDY... I'VE GOT
A NEW CAREER!

I'VE BOUGHT AN
INTEREST IN A
BOXER... I'M
GOING TO MAN-
AGE THE NEXT
WORLD'S
CHAMP!



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS ... COMMISSIONER DOLAN'S OFFICE ... IN THE DARKNESS THE SPIRIT AND HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER.

NOW, EBONY.. YASSUH, MIST' ARE YOU SURE SPIRIT BOSS ... THAT THEY AH OVER- PLAN TO KILL HEERD THIS THIS FIGHTER? GOOFY GUY SAY THAT DIPSY DOOBLE IS SONNA KILL BOOMBERSHLAB!



FROM WHAT EBONY SAYS, THE CROWD MANAGIN' DOOBLE HAVE SOME PLAN ... WHATEVER IT IS, BOOMBERSHLAB IS GOING TO BE MURDERED!

EBONY SAYS!! FOOL! WHY THE KID JUST HEARD SOMEONE BOAST ... BESIDES.. I CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT!

THERE'S NO EVIDENCE!! ANYWAY, IF A MAN IS KILLED IN THE RING, AN INQUEST IS HELD, AND..

BY GODFREY! YOU GET ME SORE... LAWS! RULES!.. FINE POLICE COMMISSIONER YOU ARE!.. HERE'S A CHANCE TO SAVE A LIFE, BUT NO!! YOU CAN'T DO IT!!!!

OH, YEAH!! LISTEN, KID ... I WAS A LIEUTENANT WHEN YOU WERE IN SWADDLING CLOTHES!! I CAUGHT KILLER KIRBY!!

WHY YOU COULDN'T EVEN CATCH A COLD!!

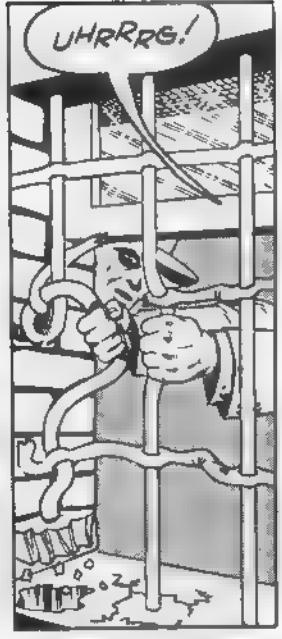
OH YEAH!!! YEAH!!
BLAH...
BLAH...
BLAH!
BLAH! YEAH?
OH-SEZ WHO??
YEAH!!

NOW, SPIRIT ...
YOU STOP ARGUING WITH MY FATHER!!

QUIET!!

YOU CAN'T TALK TO ELLEN LIKE THAT... SHE'S MY MANAGER!!





ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY...
FOUR HAPPY MEN GATHER AT
THE TICKET OFFICE OF THE
GARDEN BOWL...

A SELL-OUT!
BOY OH BOY!!!

FUNNY THOUGH.
SOME GUY
BOUGHT UP
EVERY TICKET
WE HAD!

A CONVENTION
I GUESS... OF COURSE!

MY FORMULA
DID IS PERFECT!

DIPSY
PASS THE
DOCTOR'S TEST?

LET'S GO
INTO THE
STADIUM...

SAY! PUFF... PUFF.
BOOMBERSLAG
TOOK SICK!

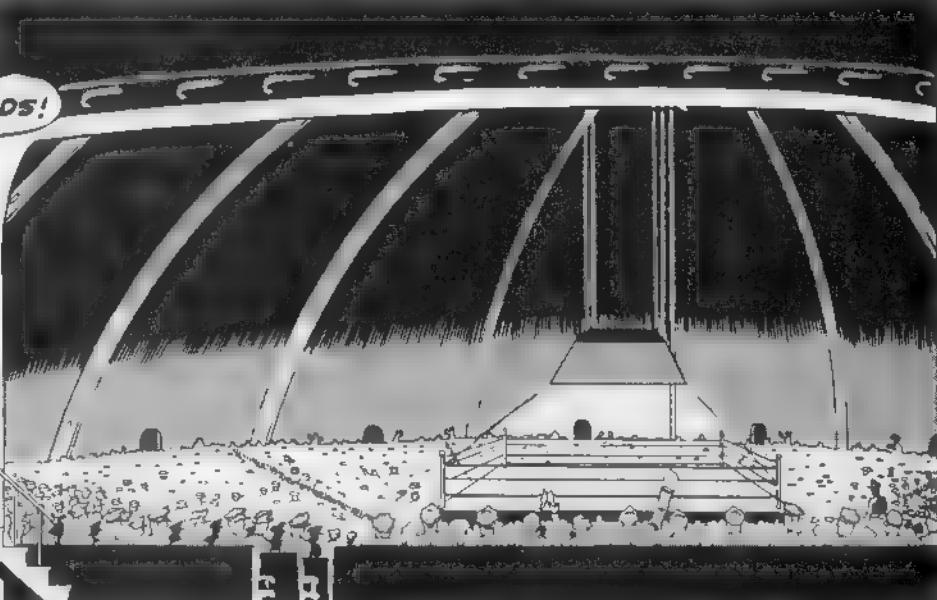
THEY'RE
SUBSTITUTING THAT'S
ANOTHER ALL
RIGHT...
JUST AS
WHAT?
LONG AS
SOMEONE
IS KILLED IN
THAT RING
TONIGHT!!

THE THREE CONFIDENT MEN
ENTER A CROWDED ARENA...

LOOK!
COPS!

HUNDREDS
OF THEM!

NO...
THOUSANDS!



IT'S A FRAME-UP! I CERTAINLY
WE CAN'T GO... WE CAN...
THROUGH WITH THIS!! DIPSY WILL
BEAT HIS OPPONENT
TO DEATH BEFORE
THE EYES OF
10,000 COPS!
HA..HA..HA..HA...
NOVEL, EH?

AFTER ALL, IT IS A
SPORTING MATCH...
AND SUPERVISED...
HA..HA..HA..HA..
I CAN HARDLY
WAIT!

IN THE DRESSING ROOM...

WONDERFUL IDEA,
SPIRIT... THE
FIRST TIME IN
HISTORY THAT
10,000 COPS
WILL BE ON
HAND TO WATCH
AN ATTEMPTED
MURDER!!

I WISH I
KNEW HOW
THEY ARE
GOING TO
MURDER
ME!

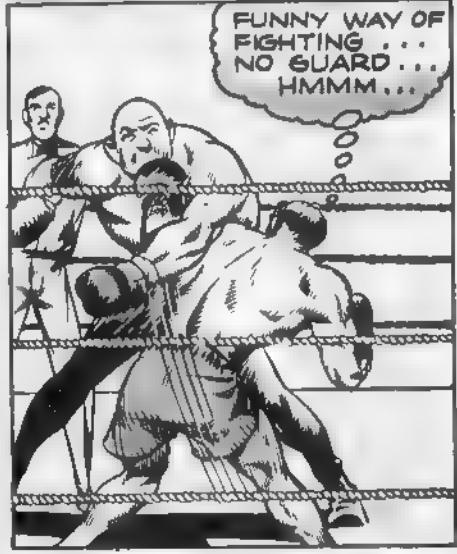
THE STADIUM LIGHTS ARE LOWERED... THE UNUSUAL AUDIENCE IS QUIET AS THE TWO MEN STEP FROM THEIR CORNERS TO FACE EACH OTHER.



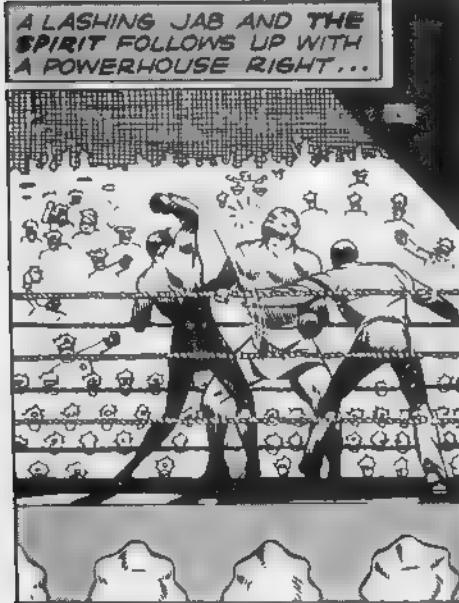
DIPSY SHUFFLES FORWARD... THE SPIRIT DRIVES HOME A HARD RIGHT...



THE PUS MAKES NO MOVE TO DEFEND HIMSELF... BOLDLY HE SHUFFLES FORWARD...



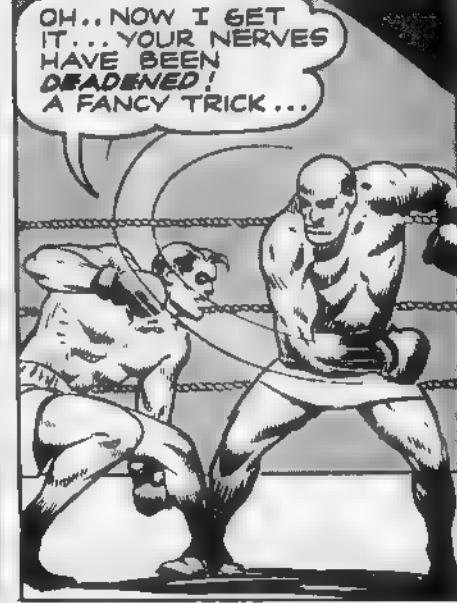
A LASHING JAB AND THE SPIRIT FOLLOWS UP WITH A POWERHOUSE RIGHT...



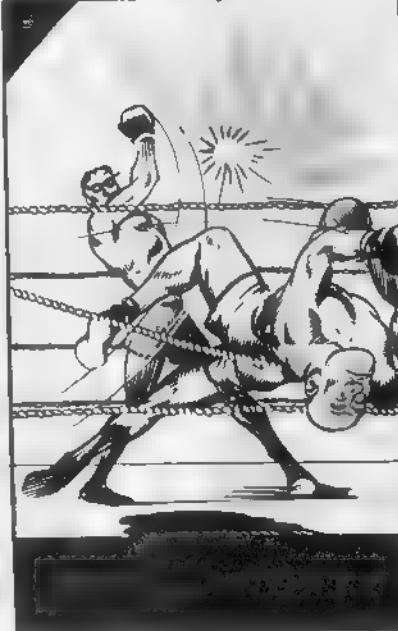
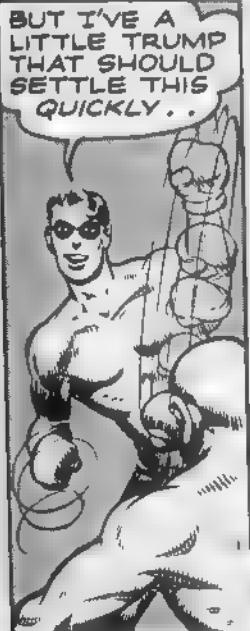
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, PUNK... I DON'T FEEL YOUR PUNY PUNCHES!!



OH.. NOW I GET IT... YOUR NERVES HAVE BEEN DEADENED! A FANCY TRICK...



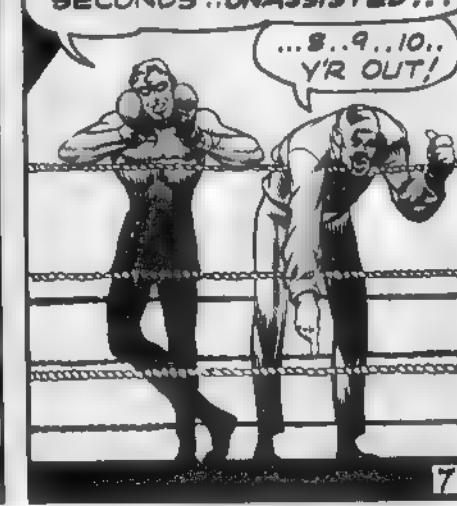
BUT I'VE A LITTLE TRUMP THAT SHOULD SETTLE THIS QUICKLY...

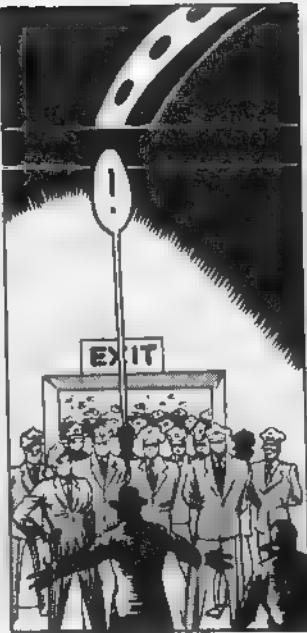


HALP! GET ME UP, SOMEBODY!



TSK..TSK.. YOU FORGOT ONE THING... THE RULES SAY THAT THE BOXER MUST GET BACK INTO THE RING WITHIN TEN SECONDS.. UNASSISTED...





Beauty

She's Ugly!



This is Mathilda Dolan, sister of the famous Police Commissioner Dolan. At 45 she still retains her youthful charm. Says Miss Dolan, "For a clear complexion, for a skin that gets compliments from even the coldest of men, Pool's Toadstool Cream is my choice."

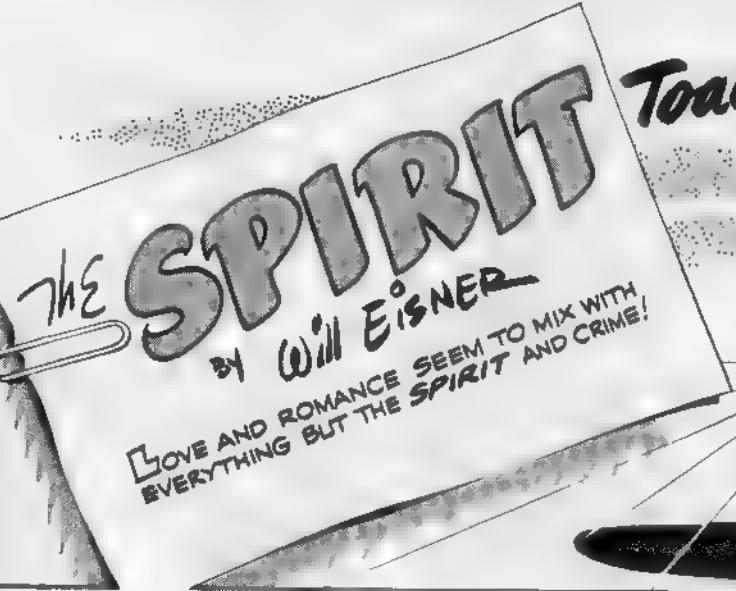
She's Engaged!



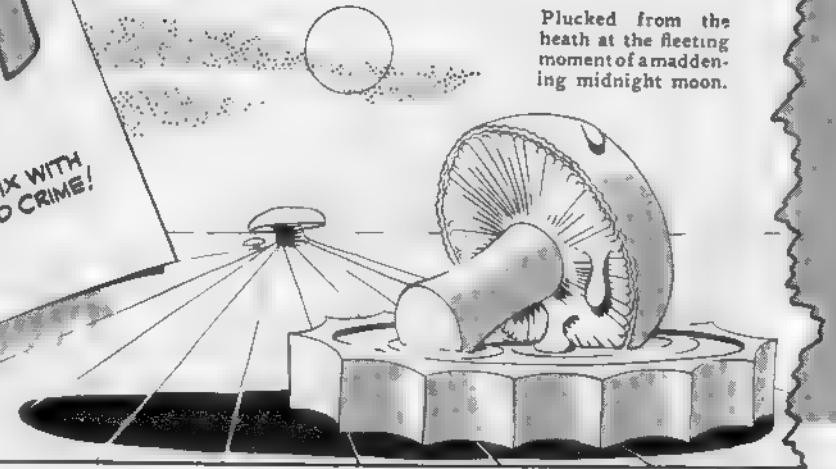
Here is popular Mathilda with her affianced, Glut Mutton, wealthy sportsman. Their wedding is planned for June. He for the first time, she for the sixth Fastidious Mutton says, "I always go for girls with that toadstool complexion." Aren't they a lovely couple?

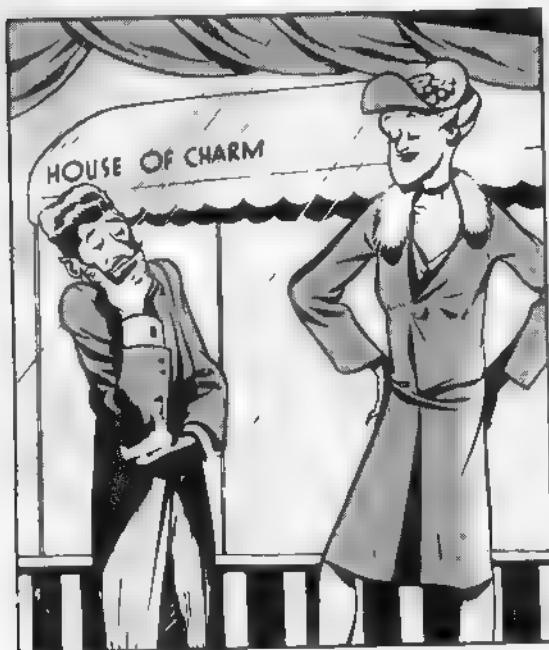
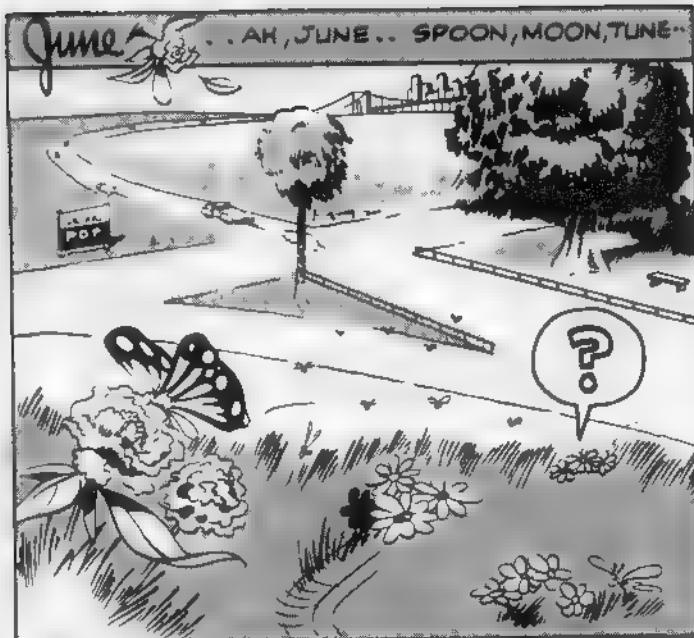
She uses POOL'S

Toadstool FACIAL CREAM



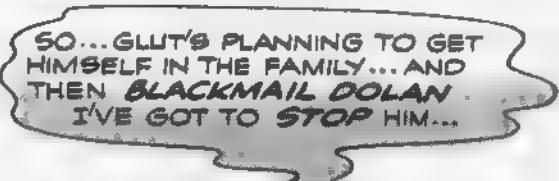
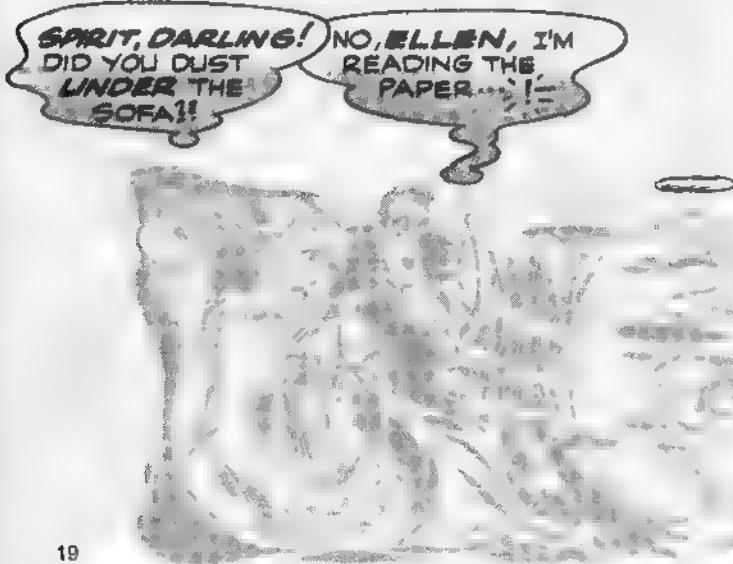
Plucked from the
heath at the fleeting
moment of a madden-
ing midnight moon.













AND SO, LATER THAT DAY...



AND AS THE SUN SETS IN THE WEST...



AND AT THE DOLAN HOUSEHOLD



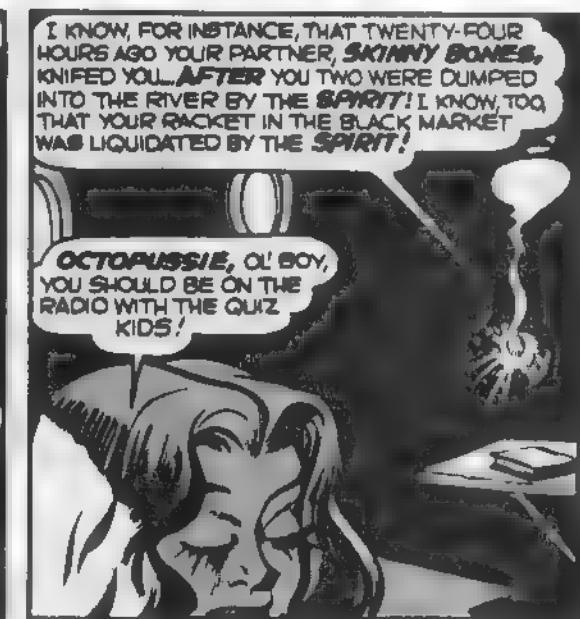
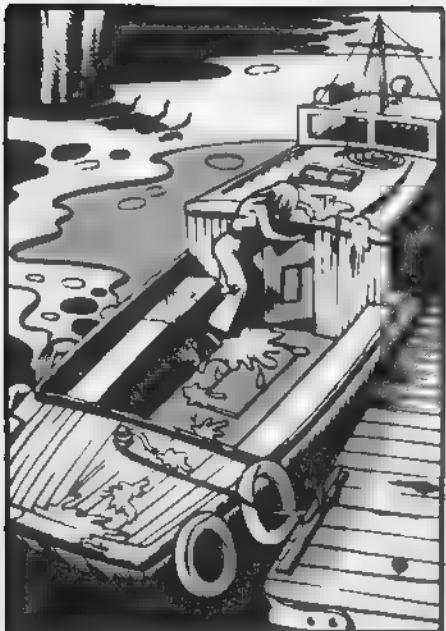
CHARGED
OCIOUS



The waterfront, with any other part of the city, lives a life in itself! On the water and in the air, and in the atmosphere, it is a life of its own, and it is a life that seems to cling to it with the tenacity of six moos. It is a life you and I, who live there, who visit, can see a break in the sky. For sometimes, the skies that come and go in the night, bring cargo that none of the men could conceive.

— R. H. STICKLER





Night Fall. Police headquarters.

BUT WHO COULD HAVE SENT IT TO YOU, SPIRIT?

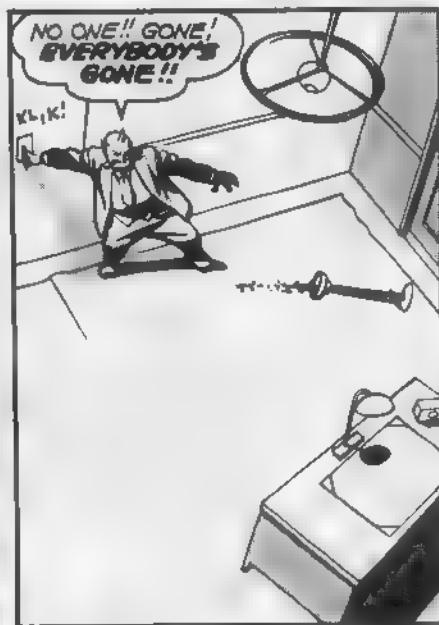
I DON'T KNOW, DOLAN. IT'S POSTMARKED SHANGHAI. THE LETTER'S BLANK!

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! I THOUGHT I'D COME BY AND TELL YOU I'M NOT DEAD!

DULCET TONE!

I THOUGHT THAT IS, WE'RE HOLDING SKINNY BONES FOR KILLING YOU!!!

WELL, FREE HER. SORRY I CAN'T STAY FOR SCENE OF JOYOUS LIBERATION!



Later...on the waterFront...



Several days later... GERMANY!

HMM... SO THIS IS THE STRONGHOLD OF THE OCTOPUS! I STILL DONT GET THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HIM AND THE BLANK LETTER!

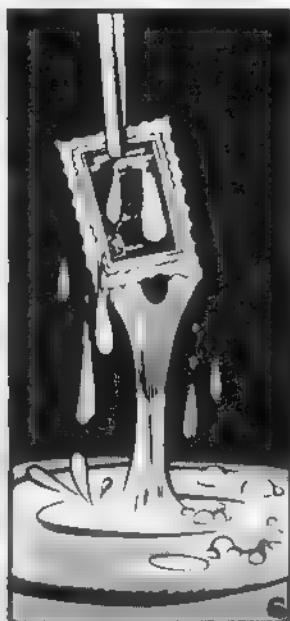
THE LETTER'S NOT BLANK, IT CONTAINS NAMES OF TEN IMPORTANT WAR CRIMINALS!! THE OCTOPUS IS ONE... YOU SEE, I'M WORKING FOR THE UN NOW!

BUT WHO MAILED THE LETTER TO ME?

I DID... I WAS CORNERED IN SHANGHAI... HAD TO GET RID OF IT. THE OCTOPUS IS THE HEAD OF A VAST CRIMINAL RING THAT IS FORMING AGAIN! EVERY CRIMINAL WORTH A LEAD BULLET ANYWHERE ON THE EARTH OPERATES WITH HIS CONSENT...

HE IS THE KING OF CRIME!





Meanwhile, CENTRAL CITY...headquarters....

BUT, DOLAN,
I DIDN'T EVEN
SEE DULCET
AFTER I
LEFT!

NO GOOD, SKINNY!
HEARD YOU SWEAR
NOT TO MISS THE
NEXT TIME!

AND NOT ONE HOUR
AFTER YOU LEAVE, WE
FISH DULCET OUT OF
THE BAY! YER UP FOR
ASSAULT WITH
INTENT TO
KILL!

HERE'S THE AFFIDAVIT...
I'VE SIGNED IT! I HOPE
SHE GETS LIFE!

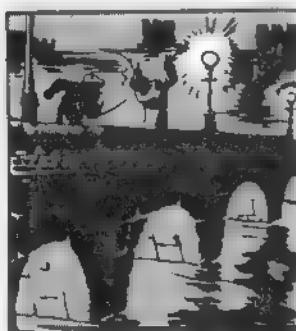
LABORATORY



...And so the traffic con-
tinues on every waterfront
from Timbuctoo to Shanghai,
whatever men are robbed!

Wherever black markets
feed the rich and starve
the poor!

There you will find the con-
trolling hand of the greatest
criminal the world has
ever seen!!!! the OCTOPUS!





I CAN'T SIT IN
THIS SHACK FOREVER
WHILE THEY BUILD-UP
THAT LAUNCH!

I'M HERE TO
STOP THIS INSANE
LAUNCH UNTIL THE
NATIONS CAN UNIFY
BEHIND THIS PROJECT

AND I NEED
YOU TO HELP ME
STOP THE
LAUNCH IN ANY
WAY WE CAN

ANY WAY?
???
SO, BLOW
UP THE
FRIGGIN'
JOINT!

NO, NO, NO!
I JUST CAN'T
KILL MANY
HUNDREDS
OF INNOCENT
WORKERS!

...THERE
MUST BE
ANOTHER
WAY...

SHEEEUT...
I GOT ME
A FRIGGIN'
NOBLEMAN
...HOO!!

SHEEEUT!

REJOICE, OH, STAR PEOPLE... IN THE VALLEY BELOW US THEY ARE BUILDING OUR VEHICLE TO ANOTHER PLANET... ONCE THERE WE WILL CREATE A NEW LIFE... FREE OF THE MISERY OF EARTH.

GO... NOW... MY BELOVED PILGRIMS... PREPARE YOURSELVES... WE DO NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT!

WILL ALL OF US BE GOING, MARCO?

WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN, MARCO?"

TELL US AGAIN, MARCO. WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

I'VE COME FOR CORA... I LOVE HER! I MUST SEE HER!

SHE'S A BELIEVER. KEEP AWAY FROM HER... SHE'S OURS. SHE WILL GO WITH US!

OH, CHRIST, MARCO! Y'R CRAZY! THEY'RE SENDING PLANTS... NOT PEOPLE !!

HAHA HA HA HA HA HA

I'LL GET HER OUT... HOW DO I GET IN THERE... C'MON... TELL ME...

UP... OVER THAT HILL PAST THE CONSTRUCTION SHACK!

SHE'S A PRISONER OF GENERAL AMI... DOWN THERE IN HIS PALACE...

OH MY GOD!

WHAT THE HELL IS SO FUNNY?



I'VE BEEN THINKING,
ROCCO... HOW ABOUT
GENERAL AMI ... MAYBE
HE CAN BE CONVINCED...
TO STALL THE LAUNCH
UNTIL...

SHH

WHO
ARE
YOU?

JONES... CO-
DEVELOPER OF
THE CELLULAR
MUTATION WITH
DR. HOAD!

...I KNOW
HOAD!!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE,
JONES?

I'VE COME TO GET
SISTER CORA OUT... SHE'S
IN GENERAL AMI'S HANDS!! I'M
GOING TO SEE HIM... TALK HIM
INTO LETTING HER GO. I'VE GOT
SOMETHING TO TRADE!!

LISTEN JONES, I'M HERE TO
DELAY THE LAUNCH... I WANT
TO TALK TO AMI TOO!!... WHAT
DO YOU SAY WE JOIN FORCES?

SURE...
WHY NOT?



WELL, WELL
SO YOU ARE
SISTER
CORA!

WHO ARE
YOU??

ANN'S NO. 1
WIFE...HEARD
ABOUT YOU...
LOOKIN' YOU
OVER!

THE GENERAL
HAS PLANS FOR
ME...I'LL BE
HIS CONSPIRATOR
IN A NEW...

HA.HA.HA,
...WHAT GAVE
YOU THAT
IDEA.HA.HA!

I KNOW IT...
IT'S MY BIG
CHANCE... ALL
I EVER WAS - A
COCKTAIL WAITRESS
- NOW I CAN BE
SOMEONE
WORTHWHILE

YOU
WILL BE
MY DEAR...
YOU WILL
BE!

OH, GENERAL,
I'LL MAKE
YOU A GOOD...

EASY
LITTLE
ONE!

YOU ARE MY
HOSTAGE...
THAT'S ALL!
I KEEP MARCO
IN LINE WITH
YOU... NOW,
THAT'S WORTH
- WHILE ISN'T
IT?

OH, AMI,
YOU ARE
A CLEVER
MAN!

YES YES
YOU'RE
RIGHT
M'DEAR!

THERE
ARE THREE
AMERICANS
TO SEE YOU
GENERAL

NOW... LET ME SEE IF
I UNDERSTAND YOU....
YOU WANT ME TO DELAY
THE LAUNCH.. WHY???

AS LONG AS THAT
ROCKET IS HERE MULTINATIONAL
WILL KEEP FEEDING YOU MONEY...
ONCE IT GOES UP, SIDAMI WILL
NO LONGER BE IMPORTANT
TO ANYONE!

I AM
A COLONY
OF THE
PLANET
BERNARD

AHH
BULLSHIT

F' CHRIS
SAKE
ROCCO!

YOU ARE
A VERY CLEVER MAN
MR. BLUDD... VERY BRAVE!
WEREN'T YOU PREVENTED
FROM ENTERING
OUR LAUNCH SITE?

YES...
A BIT
ROUGHLY

GET
ME DR.
HOAD...
WE'LL
SETTLE
THIS NOW!

...THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
GENERAL!!
I'VE GOT OUR
PASSENGER,
VITO READY...
WE'RE SET
TO GO!

HEY... I WANT
VITO...

JONESY!!
WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU
DROPPED
OUT!

I
WANT
CORA

WELL,
NOW...
PEOPLE
WHO WANT
SOMETHING
... THAT I
UNDERSTAND
HAHAHA
LET'S DEAL!

BUT, NOW HOAD,
THESE PEOPLE ARE TRYING
TO CONVINCE ME TO
DELAY THE LAUNCH

CORA CORA...IT'S ME —
JONESY...HONEY, THE
GENERAL HAS MADE
A DEAL!

I'M GOING BACK
TO GET MACREADY
OF MULTINATIONAL
TO GIVE AMI MORE
FUNDS...BLUDD IS
GOING TO GET THE
SOVIETS TO STALL...
MARCO IS AMI'S
HOSTAGE!

DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
...WE'RE FREE!
YOU CAN COME
BACK WITH
ME!

PLEASE
JONESY
GET
UP!

I DON'T WANT TO
BE THE WIFE OF A A-
CHEMIST...I WANT
SOMETHING MORE...
I'VE TASTED A BIT
OF IT... NOW I'M
GOING TO GET IT!

SOMEHOW

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THIS HEAH
IS A SENATE HEARIN'...NOT A CIRCUS
...PLEASE, COME TO ORDER!

MISTUH MAC READY...
CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO US WHY
MULTINATIONAL IS UNDERTAKIN'
TO FINANCE A LAUNCHING SITE
IN SIDAMI — IN DEFIANCE OF
THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
POLICY?

SENATOR... MULTINATIONAL IS
NOT IN DEFIADE OF ANY FORMAL
UNITED STATES POSITION!!
BESIDES SIDAMI CLAIMS IT IS
A COLONY OF ANOTHER
PLANET!

MISTJH MACREADY,
THE PRESIDENT IS TRYIN'
TO BUILD A INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATIVE
EFFORT!

IN THAT CASE DON'T
YOU THINK HE SHOULD GET
TO THE "PARENT" PLANET
FIRST... NOT ITS
COLONY?

...YOU
SUGGESTIN'
SUH, WE MAKE
A TREATY WITH
A-A PLANET
WE HAVENT
YET VISITED
??

...WELL....
ISN'T THAT
WHAT MY
COMPANY
IS TRYIN' TO
HELP WITH
??

SUH,
YOUR
COMPANY
IS TRYIN'
TO MAKE
FOREIGN
POLICY
FO' US!

NO SIR...
WE ARE ONLY
INTERESTED IN
SELLING ...KNOW-
HOW AND PRODUCT
TO SIDAMI...
MAY I MAKE A
BRIEF STATEMENT
SENATOR?

YES!

HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING
HERE! THE FATE OF OUR NATION
HANGS ON OUR BEING THE FIRST
TO CONTACT THE PLANET BERNARD
WHICH HAS SIGNALED US... FOR THIS
ADMINISTRATION TO 'DAWDLE' IN A
NAIVE EFFORT AT AN INTERNATIONAL
EFFORT IS IRRESPONSIBLE!! THIS
COUNTRY IS THE MOST ADVANCED
ON EARTH... WE RESPECT HUMAN
RIGHTS... WE HAVE THE CHRISTIAN
ETHIC!! IT IS OUR HISTORIC DUTY
TO LEAD - LET THE OTHER
NATIONS FOLLOW... THANK
YOU!!

BRAVO
MR.
MAC
READY!

NO
FURTHER
COMMENT,
BOYS

IT APPEARS
YOU HAVE
WON THE
DAY, MR.
MACREADY

THE
PRESIDENT
MUST NOW
KEEP HANDS
OFF SIDI-
AMI!

WELL, GEORGE...YOU
REALLY PULLED IT OFF!
THE PAPERS AND TV ARE
SINGING YOUR
PRAISES THIS
MORNING!

MARTHA...DO
YOU HAVE TO
DRINK SCOTCH
AT BREAKFAST?

WELL WELL
I'M FLATTERED!
YOU'VE NOTICED.
HA..WHAT ELSE
CAN A NEGLECTED
WIFE DO?

GEORGE HOWARD
CALLED...HE'S GOT
A FRIEND DR. JONES
WHO WANTS AN
APPOINTMENT..
IT'S ABOUT SIDAMI

DON'T
YOU EVEN WANT
TO SEE HOWARD?
HE'S YOUR SON!!
HE NEEDS A FATHER
-TALK TO HIM,
GEORGE

THAT
'QUEER' NEEDS
A DOCTOR...
NOT ME!"
GET THE CAR
KARL!

IT'S ALL
SET, JONESY
... JUST
CALL HIS
OFFICE!

THANKS
HOWARD!

JONESY...
CAN'T YOU
STAY A
WHILE...
WE CAN
TALK
ABOUT
OUR
COLLEGE
DAYS

SORRY...
I. I'M IN A
RUSH...SEE
YOU....

DAMN
THAT
DIRTY
DOUBLE
CROSSING
SONOFOBITCH

...SORRY
MR. MILGATE,
...MACREADY
WONT SEE
YOU - WE
PHONED
5 TIMES!

WELL,
WE MIGHT
AS WELL FACE
UP TO IT, SIR!...
YOU'RE OUT OF
FINDS... NOTHING
FROM MACREADY
NOW THAT HE HAS
THE PRESIDENT
WHERE HE
WANTS HIM!

...BUT WE HAVE ANOTHER
POSSIBLE BIG MONEY SOURCE!
... ALBERT APPOLEON - THE
PAPER-CLIP MAGNATE! HE'S
'BIG' ON YOU!

OKAY! OKAY!
I AM GOING TO GET
ELECTED WITHOUT
THAT DOUBLECROSSING
MACREADY... I DON'T
CARE WHO WE GET!



OKAY, APPOLEON-YOU GOT FIVE OF THE TOP FAMILIES UP HERE FOR A MEETIN'... IT BETTER BE BIG!

I WON'T WASTE TIME WITH A LOTTA SPEECH...WE GOT A CHANCE TO BUY USA U.S. PRESIDENT!

NOW, THAT IS BIG!

WHO??...THAT CREEP-DEXTER MILGATE HAH!!

DON'T KNOCK IT...THIS ISN'T DRUGS OR SKIN! I'M TALKING ABOUT A WHOLE GODDAM ADMINISTRATION IN-OUR-POCKET!

CAAAAMON!

LET HIM TALK

I'M PUTTING UP TWO MILLION-YOU EACH PUT UP 1.8 MILLION...WITH THAT MILGATE'S GOT A SURE SHOT!!

CHEECH

SO, OKAY...HE GETS ELECTED!! WHAT ARE WE BUYIN'??

THE DEAL IS-HE APPOINTS OUR PEOPLE TO KEY POSTS!

AH!

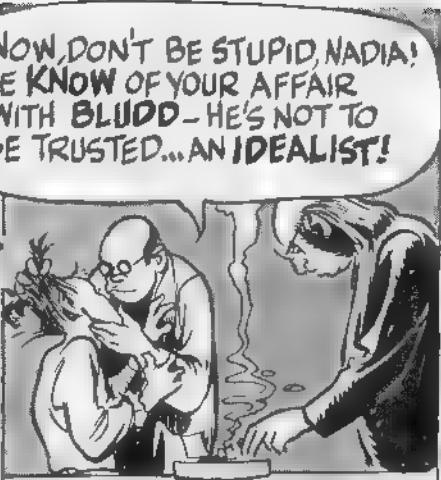
NO ARGUMENT? ... FINE..... OKAY GENTS I WILL DELIVER YOU A PRESIDENT

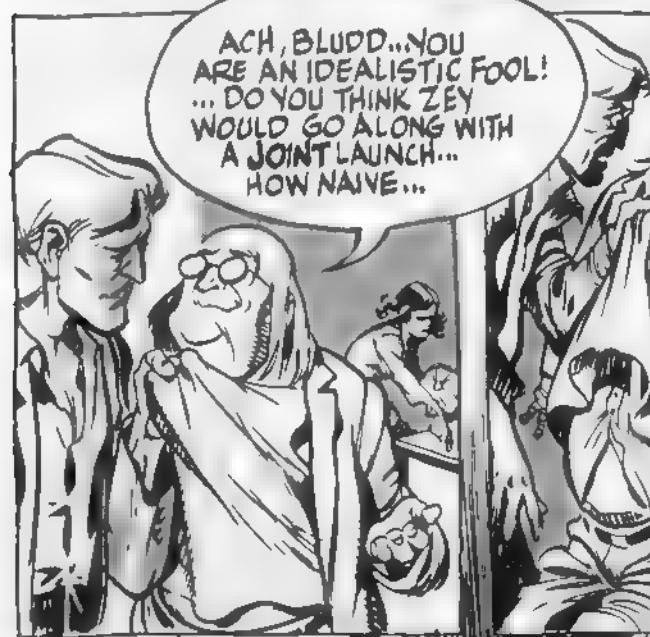
SO, TONY HOW'S TH' COAST?

SCREWED UP. THIS COUNTRY NEEDS LAW AND ORDER!

HOW'S Y'R KID, JOE?

... GOIN' TO PRINCETON THIS YEAR!





AT A NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT WHILE THE U.S. CANNOT STOP SIDAMI FROM MAKING ITS OWN LAUNCH, HE WILL ASK CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR A U.S. EFFORT AT LAUNCHING A 'VOYAGER' ROCKET TO THE PLANET BERNARD... HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE STILL HOPES FOR A JOINT-LAUNCH WITH OTHER GREAT NATIONS. SO FAR HOWEVER, THE USSR VETOED ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE IDEA AT THE U.N.! ... THIS IS JAN GATHER IN WASHINGTON...



GOOD EVENING... THIS IS B.B. BLEAKSTONE IN NEW YORK ... WHILE THERE IS GENERAL APATHY IN THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SEEMS TO REGARD THE PLANET CONTACT AND PROBE AS A KEY POLITICAL ISSUE ... NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS COME OUT WITH AN AFFIRMATIVE POSITION, VOTER SENTIMENT SEEMS TO BE SWINGING HIS WAY... TO DAY, IN KANSAS, DEXTER MILGATE WHO IS LAGGING IN THE POLLS, HAD THIS TO SAY...

... WHEN THE GOING'S TOUGH
THE TOUGH GET GOING!!





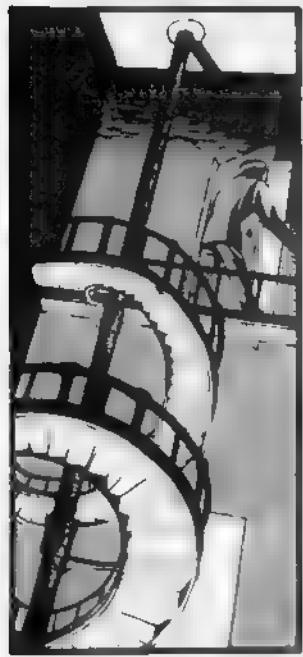
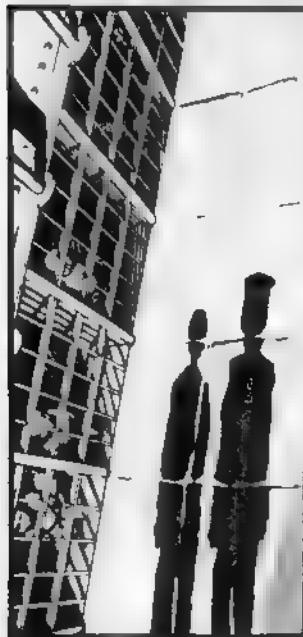


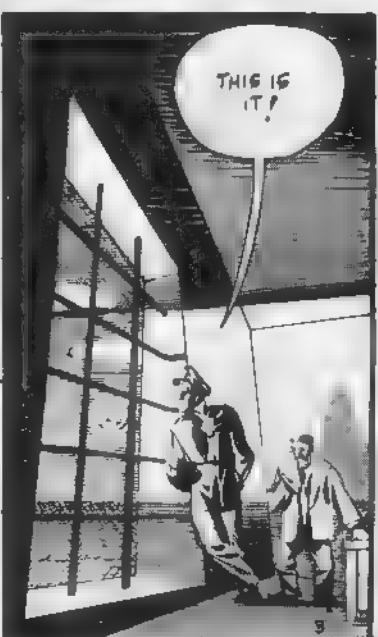
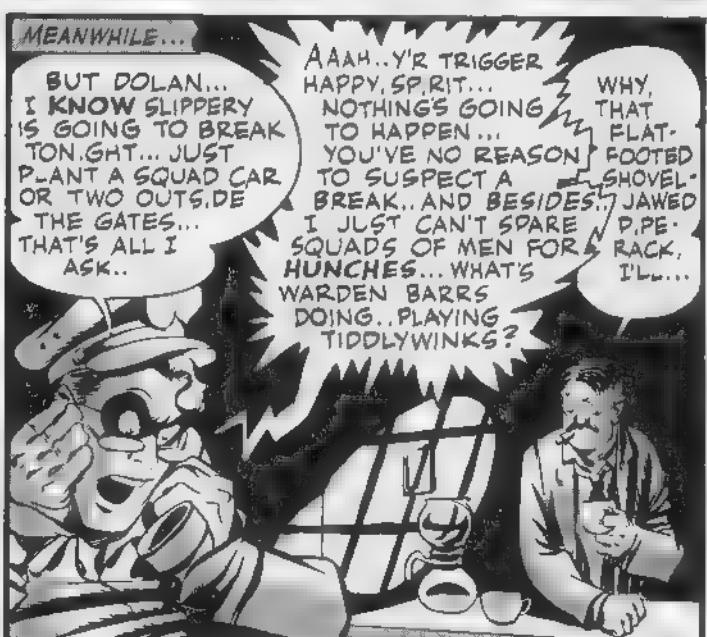
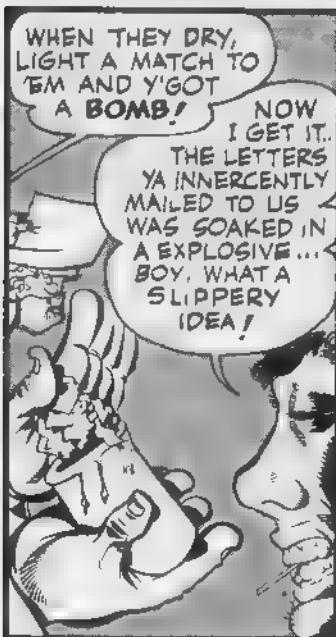


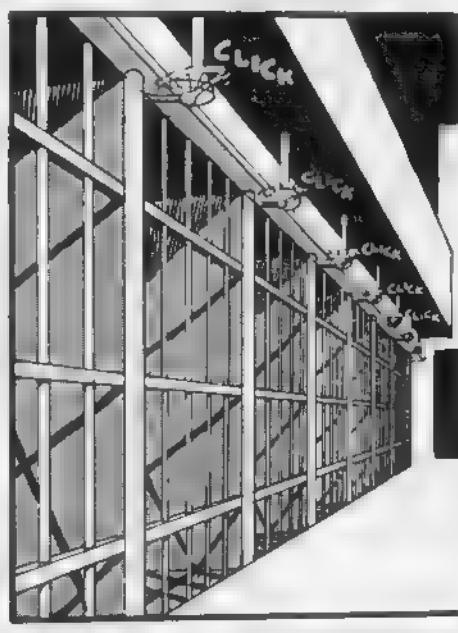
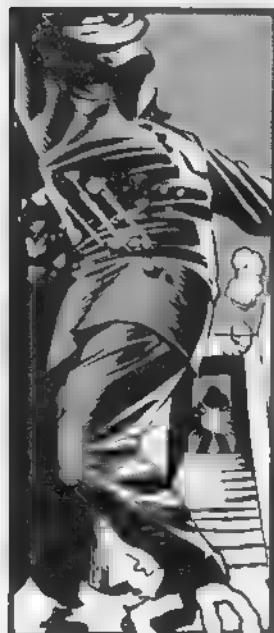
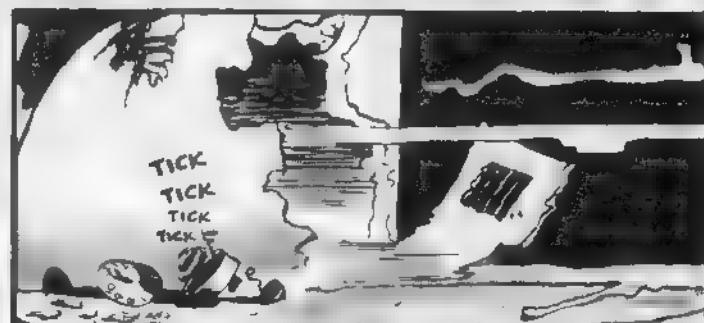
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

A RIVER OF CRIME









MEANWHILE . . .

HELLO..HELLO..
POLICE HEADQUARTERS
...BAH! THEY'VE
CUT THE WIRES..

THE
ALARM
SIREN
HAS BEEN
DISCONNECTED
TOO!

GAD!
LOOK AT THEM
SWARM OUT..
THAT SECOND
RETAINING
WALL CAN'T
HOLD THEM!

THE GUARDS ON
THE SOUTH CORNER
DON'T KNOW..THEY'LL
BE SWAMPED BEFORE
THEY CAN OPEN FIRE
...I'LL TRY TO
HOLD THIS MOB
UNTIL HELP
ARRIVES...

**BUT THE GUARDS
ARE ALL LOCKED IN..
THE RESERVE IS
SICK.. IT'S **YOU**
AGAINST A MOB
OF DEADLY
CRIMINALS...**

DON'T ARGUE..
DO WHAT I TELL YOU
...GRAB THAT
STAFF CAR AND RACE
FOR DOLAN'S
HEADQUARTERS..
AND KEEP YOUR
HEAD DOWN!

GOOD LUCK,
BARRS...

I'LL MAKE IT,
SPIRIT!...HANG ON..
TILL I GET BACK...

STOP THAT
QUAFFIN CAR!

RATTATTTTTT RATTAT

DAT WUZ DE WARDEN
TRYIN' TO GET DOWN
DAT RUNWAY...

GOOD SHOOTIN',
MONKS, BUT SAVE
Y'R LEAD. THERE'S
THE MAIN GATE
YET!

THE
DOOR IS
OPEN.

YAHOO!
WE'RE
SPRUNG

SHADDAP!
SLIPPERY'S
YELLIN'
SOMETHIN'.

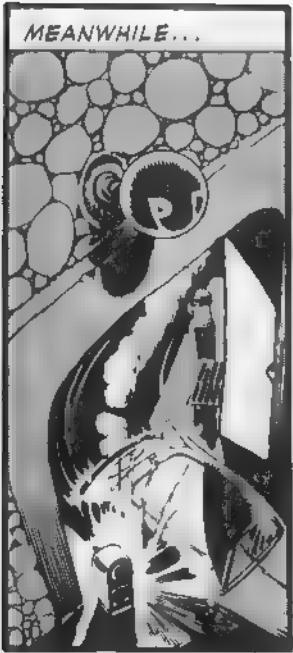
MEN..THE LAST
OBSTACLE IS
THE MACHINE
GUN POST..ONCE
PAST THAT, IT'S
EVERY MAN
ON HIS OWN!

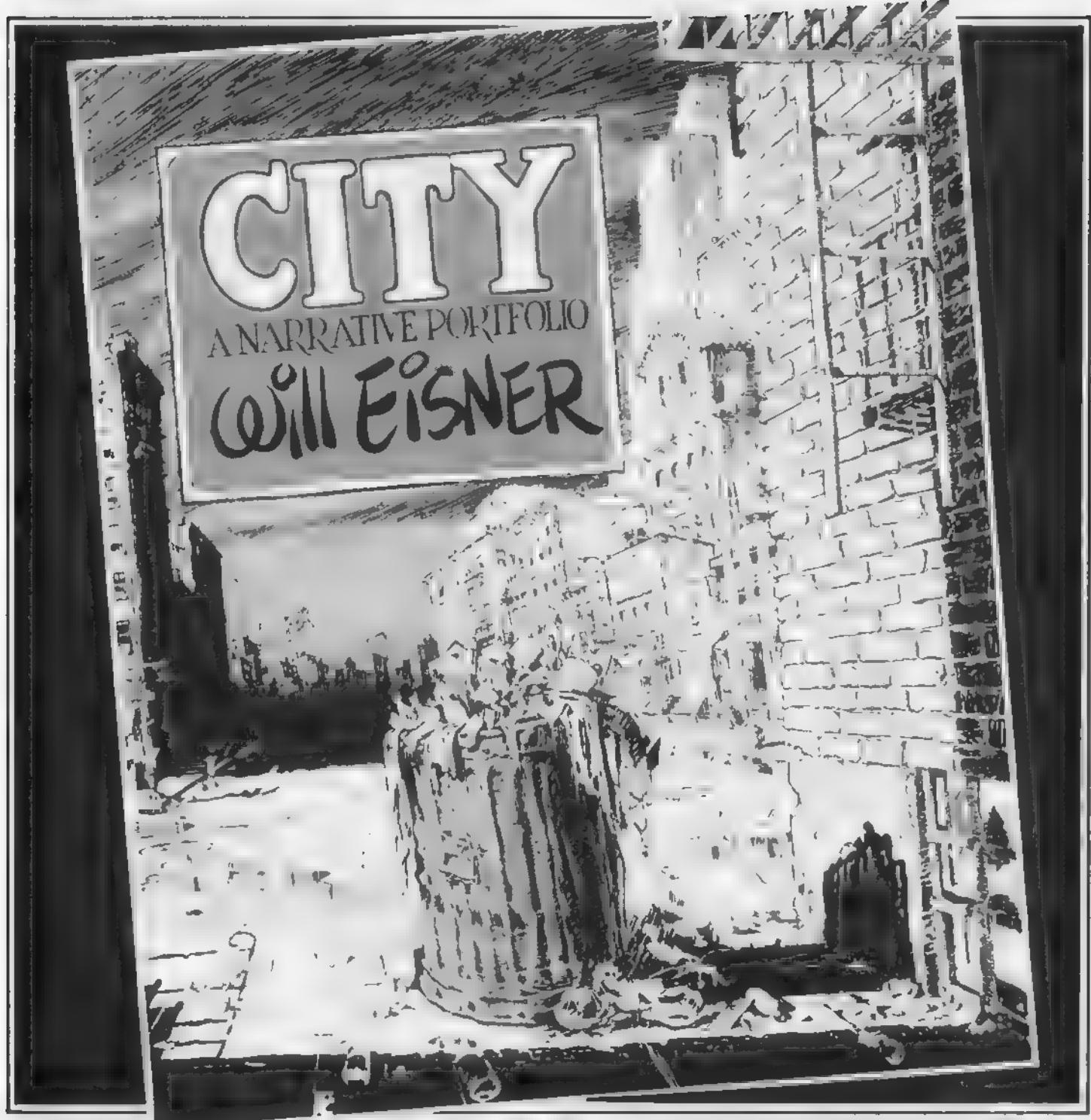
**FREE! HA HA HA
ME FOIST!**

A WALL
OF FIRE! IT'S
THE SPIRIT!

Queso #10







- Not content to create an "ordinary" portfolio, **Will Eisner**, in his *City: A Narrative Portfolio*, has combined his stunning artwork with his characteristic story-telling.
- Each large panoramic plate is accompanied by a deckle-edge fold-over with Eisner's narrative poetry and smaller drawings.
- Each of these 6 large plates is printed on arctic white paper with an additional color, simulating an actual etching.
- The plates are held in a sturdy folder, on matching paper, with a striking 3-color cover
- Only 1,500 total portfolios exist. Over 600 of these have been pre-sold to European clients, leaving less than 900 for the entire American market. Sold on a first-come basis
- Each portfolio is numbered, and the first plate is autographed by **Will Eisner**. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.
- Price is \$17.50, plus \$2 for insured shipment/sturdy package.

A Portfolio that only Will Eisner could create!

HOLLYBROOK GRAPHICS

Route 1 Box 329 • Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

Please send me ____ edition(s) of **Will Eisner's CITY: A Narrative Portfolio**. I have enclosed \$17.50 plus \$2 for shipping and insurance for each portfolio.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RESCUE

Outer Space

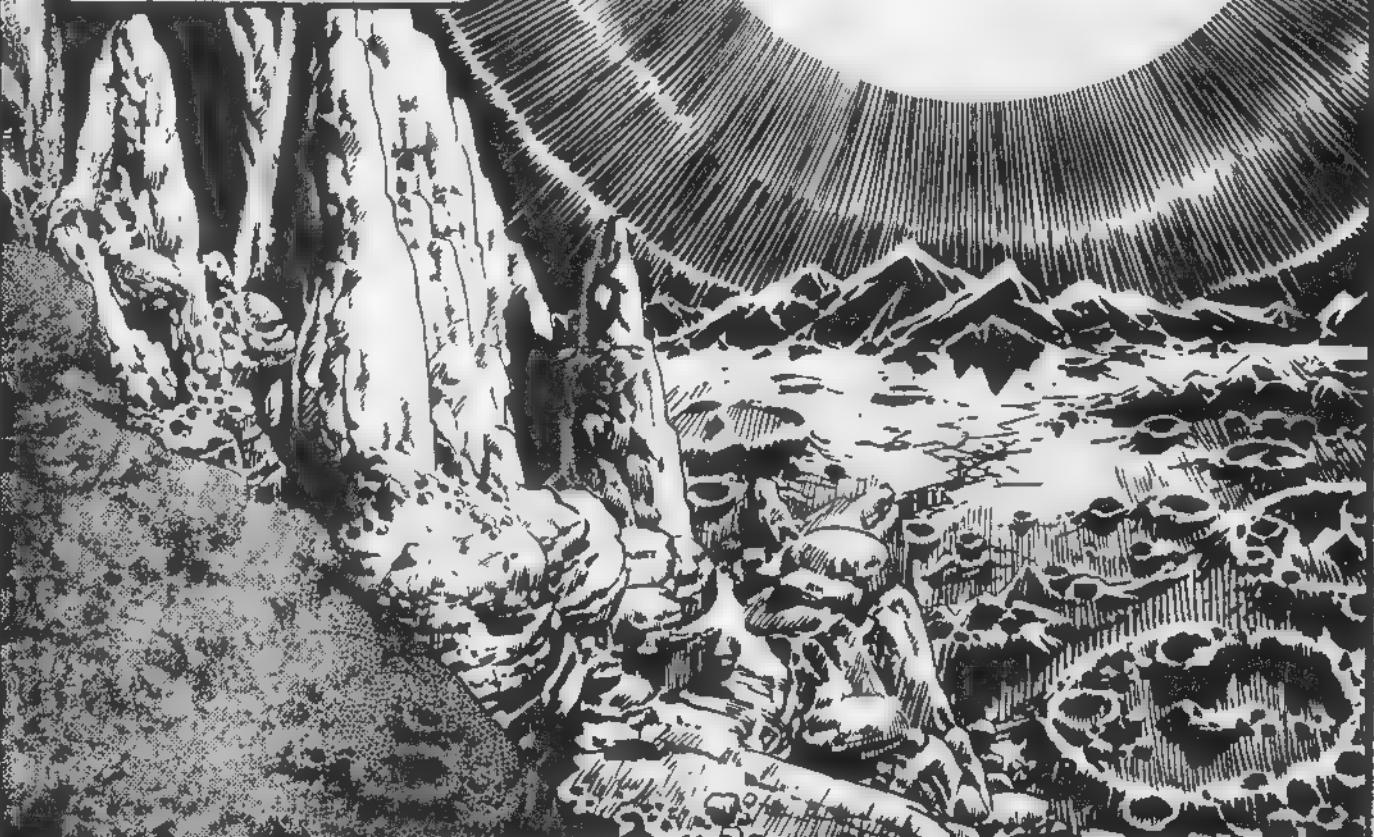
First Lunar
Expedition

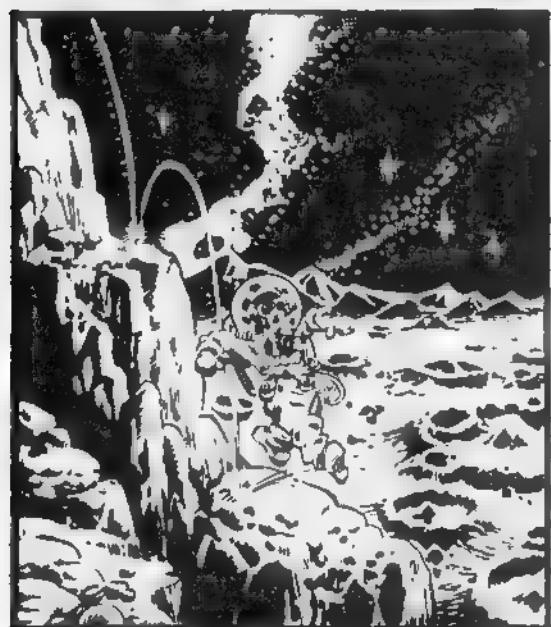
Entry #5

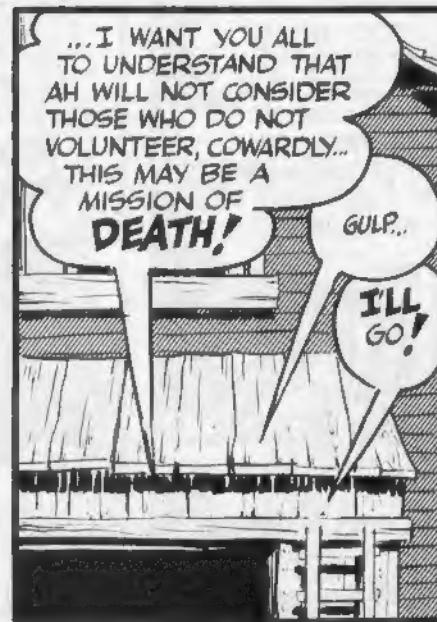
We have scaled the Great Wall...before us is one great shimmering expanse of heat and light under the glare of the sun....it is like looking into the center of an atomic blast...now test our glare reduction eye shade and black glass.

THE SPIRIT

by Will Eisner









Entry #5
(continued)

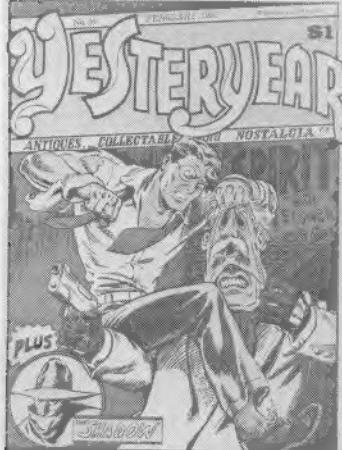
We have fired a magnetic rocket earthward, notifying earth of our intention to return. The first Lunar Expedition is returning to earth.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

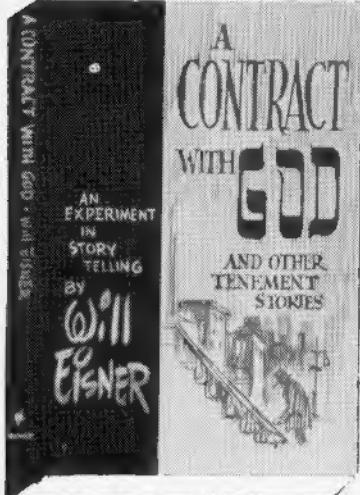


Other Comics from Kitchen Sink

1. **Yesteryear** No.59. Special issue featuring Eisner's Spirit. Article by Cat Yronwode. Also, a piece on Walter Gibson, creator of The Shadow. \$1.25 postpaid.



2. **A Contract With God**. Will Eisner's marvelous comic novel based on his early years in a tenement district in the Bronx. "An important book...an individual vision with touches of genius."—Harlan Ellison. Squareback format. \$5.35 postpaid.



3. **Artistic Comics**. Sketches, doodles, ideas from the sketchbook of Robert Crumb. 1.25

4. **Banzai Comix**. An excellent book by Kim Deitch, Joel Beck and Roger Brand. 1.25 postpaid

5. **Barefootz No.1**. Funny comix from Howard Cruse. \$1 postpaid

6. **Barefootz No.2**. Insightful & hilarious material. \$1 postpaid

7. **Barefootz No.3**. "One of the brightest lights ever to shine in the underground."—Don & Maggie Thompson. 1.25 postpaid

8. **Bizarre Sex No.7**. Outrageous as ever. John Pound cover. 1.50

9. **Class War Comix**. British anarchist Clifford Harper offers his view of future society. 1st of a proposed series. 1.25 postpaid

10. **Comix Book No.4**. The bastard child of a brief affair be-

ween Marvel Comics and the underground. 68 pgs. 1.25 postpaid

11. **Comix Book No.5**. Final issue. Lots of artists. 1.25 ppd

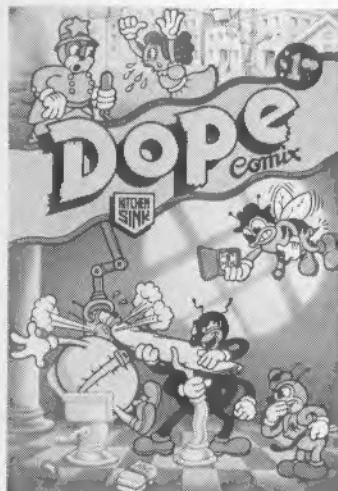
12. **Compleat Fart**. Lee Marrs' tongue-in-cheek humor. 1.25 ppd

13. **Corporate Crime No.1**. The Karen Silkwood case, ITT Scandal, Ludlow Massacre and other historical material is examined by 15 top artists. 1.50 postpaid

14. **Corporate Crime No.2**. Further graphic depictions of white collar crime around the world. Leonard Riffas, editor. 1.25 ppd

15. **Deep 3-D Comix**. Special glasses included. 1.25 postpaid

16. **Dope Comix No.1**. Leslie Cabarga cover. Cartoonists look at drugs in society. 1.25 ppd



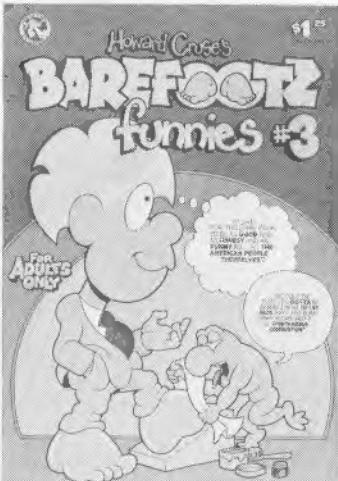
17. **Dope Comix No.2**. John Pound cover. (posters of this and No.1 are available. write for details.) Funny stuff! 1.25 ppd

18. **Dope Comix No.3**. Jay Lynch cover. LSD and other drugs. Top artists. 1.25 postpaid

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